MAHARAJA SERFOGI'S SARASWATI

# THE MOUNTAIN CHIEF;

OR, THE

## DESCENDANT OF WILLIAM TELL,

The Deliverer of Switzerland.

A ROMANCE.

*IN FOUR VOLUMES.*

VOL. III.

"'Tis liberty that gives
" The fading flower of life its lustre and perfume,
" And we are weeds without it."

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THE

# MOUNTAIN CHIEF.

## CHAPTER IX.

THE Austrian Governor, irritated by the slaughter of his soldiers at the Castle of Zur, which had been pretty well ascertained by the discovery of the dead bodies which lay about the spot, resolved to spare no effort to make the patriotic Count feel the full weight of his vengeance. He therefore meditated a new and more powerful attack upon the castle, and

determined in the event of success, to spread terror and dismay amongst the Swiss who had rebelled against his authority, by his cruel treatment of the noble prisoner. His design, however, was delayed in its execution from the circumstance of the capture of his daughter, and the utter defeat which her escort had sustained; which for some days totally engrossed his whole thoughts, and proved a fertile source of the most bitter mortification. But while he was yet in a state of indecision as to the best means of retrieving his loss, the sudden return of his daughter, under the protection of the gallant Riesbach, once more turned the current of his reflections.

The idea of a defeat, and the consequences which had attended it had been sufficiently humiliating to the pride of the Austrian, but his rage

was ungovernable when he found that his enemy's gallantry in sending back the fair captive, unransomed and unredeemed, had laid him under an obligation which he could neither repay nor conceal from his army. With an ill grace, therefore, he appeared before Riesbach, and assumed that degree of unjustifiable insolence which rouzed the spirit of the mountain hero.

Lucette's relation of the manner in which she had been treated by her captors, her praises of the figure, bravery, and humanity of the Mountain Chief, and her efforts to instil into the mind of her father favourable impressions respecting the Swiss, only served to add fuel to his resentment, and to swell his hatred to a more outrageous pitch. So indignant, indeed, did he feel that his daughter should speak the worth of

his enemies, that he could have driven her from his presence, and torn her image from his heart, had not considerations of a superior nature checked his wish for revenge upon her undutiful and unnatural conduct, as he secretly called it. She had resided in the cave, and could therefore impart to him the long-wished for intelligence of its exact situation; and, accordingly, he endeavoured to draw the secret from her bosom, but the amiable girl evaded his attempts, until he became too pressing and unequivocal in his desire to obtain the secret, for her to have recourse to any further evasion, when she informed him that such precautions had been taken to prevent her from knowing the situation of the cave, that she could not possibly point it out.

The rage of the Governor, at this

confession, exceeded all bounds, and he instantly burst forth into the most violent and bitter reproaches for her infidelity to her country, and her attachment to her enemies. Lucette, however, was not to be turned from her purpose by execrations and menaces; she had received impressions on her own mind respecting the worth of Ulric, and the justice of the cause in which he was engaged, which were ineradicable; and she would never have forgiven herself had she been prevailed on basely to betray the secret which had so honorably been confided to her fidelity and discretion. The interest she felt for the chief of the Swiss was greater than that of a friend, her heart was attached to him, because she had imagined that in him she had found the exact image and counterpart of her deceased Charles,

and she felt a persuasion that he only could fill that vacancy in her affections, which the loss of her original lover had occasioned; and which, until now, she had never seen an individual whom she considered worthy to occupy. She had, at length, however, found a new lover in her enemy; and she resolved, by her devotedness to his cause, and attachment to his interest, to gain for herself a corresponding place in his heart. Such was the true motive which urged the amiable girl to resist the entreaties and menaces of her father to wring from her the seeret of the cave.

While the Governor agitated in his mind the best method of obtaining possession of the Count and the Castle of Zur, Lucette was occupied in the formation of schemes to obtain possession of the heart of her gallant conqueror. At one moment, she re-

solved to quit the town in disguise and throw herself into his arms, confiding in his honour and gratitude; but reason and delicacy immediately took the alarm, and suggested the probability that such impetuosity and carelessness of censure might rather tend to lessen her in Ulric's opinion than the contrary. The design was immediately relinquished, and a hundred others successively met with no better fate.

While she was yet resolving anew, without the power of decision, Silezia, her attendant and confidante, rushed into the room to welcome the return of her beloved mistress, and her appearance, for the moment, banished the images of love from Lucette's breast. In a few minutes they returned with double force, and the amiable girl fell into a state of despondency, which alarmed and

astonished the faithful and susceptible Silezia. For some time she looked incredulously in her mistress's countenance, before she dared to vent her feelings; but after a long pause, she ventured to exclaim—"Alas! madam, is it thus that you welcome liberty? Is it thus that you return to Zurich and Silezia? You look just as you did when your poor Charles—but pardon me, madam, for presuming to revive that dreadful scene."

Lucette forced a smile into her countenance, as she replied—"my dear Silezia, forgive me. So generously have I been treated by the Swiss chief, that I cannot suppress a sigh when I reflect on the probable fate which may await his daring thirst for enterprize."

"Why should you sigh for the fate of a traitor?" replied Silezia; "re-

serve your sorrows for our brave countrymen who may fall by his hand; let their graves be watered by your tears, but let scorching suns destroy the glade which strives to shelter the last abode of a rebel."

"Call not those rebellious who rise in defence of their country from the usurpations of a foreign power;" returned Lucette, who could scarcely restrain her indignation as she heard the remarks of her confidante. If these Swiss have erred, it has been from the best motives; they seek to preserve from violation the land of their fathers, which is their's by right of inheritance. We are little better than invaders, and they have a right to dispute our interference. "The chief of the mountain warriors is actuated by the best motives, and would not descend to a dishonourable action."

The suspicions of Silezia were strongly excited; and, looking archly in the countenance of her mistress, which was suffused with blushes, probably from a consciousness that she had spoken her sentiments too unguardedly, she exclaimed—"Perhaps this chief whose cause you plead with so much eloquence, has obtained a conquest over your heart."

The blushes of Lucette redoubled; and her eyes were cast upon the ground, in the utmost confusion. For some time she could not collect sufficient resolution to give utterance to the ideas which struggled for a vent; but after a pause which had convinced Silezia of the justice of her suspicions, she replied—"Pshaw, Silezia, how can you suppose any thing so absurd? Am I to fall in love with every handsome and amiable youth I see? Because the gallant

Ulric is an elegant figure, and possesses a countenance very like that of my poor Charles, does it follow that I have given him my heart, at so early a period of our acquaintance."

The more Lucette strove to convince her confidant that she was indifferent to Ulric, the more was Silezia convinced that her heart and tongue were at variance, and so artfully did she contrive to throw in her questions and doubts, that an hour's conversation had drawn from her mistress the whole secret which she had predetermined to guard most jealously in her bosom, and not to confide even to the honor of her friend. Silezia at first attempted to reason her mistress out of her passion, but when she found that it had taken too deep root, she expressed her resolution to assist her designs, and to promote her happiness by every means in her power.

After endeavouring, without effect to restrain the impetuous resolution of her mistress, Silezia, at length, consented to accompany her in close disguise to the cave of the mountain, whither Lucette resolved to repair, and make known to Ulric, the affection which raged in her bosom. "Your presence, my dear Silezia," said she, "will be sufficient to preserve me from the shafts which scandal may level at my reputation; and love will bear me through the danger."

Silezia undertook to procure the disguises of two hermits, and it was settled that their departure should take place with as little delay as possible.

In the mean time, the Governor of Zurich was occupied in the fitting out of a secret expedition to the Castle of Zur, of which he deter-

mined to make himself master, even if the task should cost him one half of his army. He had received information from the spies which he had sent out, that the Count had for some time busied himself in the cause of the Swiss, and he strongly suspected that a direct communication was carried on betwixt this nobleman and the band of the mountains. In factious times such as these, suspicion was a sufficient handle for the commission of the most glaring acts of injustice and cruelty, and the Austrian indulged in the hope that revenge was already within his grasp.

Three mornings after the return of Lucette, a band of two thousand Austrians marched out of the gates of the town, just as the moon had called in her paly beams from the mountains and the vallies around. Impervious darkness sat upon the

scene, and still and slow the instruments of oppression took their way to the castle. "Bring me the haughty Count, and his family alive," was the command of the tyrant; "that I may mature my plans of vengeance, and hold up a terrible example to meaner rebels."

Unsuspicious of the storm which gathered over him, the Count reposed securely, while the arrows of fate traversed the air. Florida, too, thought of nothing but Ulric, and her dreams were tinged with the hues of her waking thoughts. Her sleep was the sleep of innocence, no phantoms of guilt scared her imagination; no gloomy presentiments disturbed her mind, or added horror to the darkness of the night.

When the assault was made upon the draw-bridge of the castle, the affrighted domestics rushed to their

arms, and seized them with a determination to defend their master to the last; but, alas! their numbers were insufficient to carry their determination into effect, their resistance was comparatively weak; one by one they fell beneath the ruthless weapons of their merciless adversaries, and the Count and Florida beheld themselves, when the sun arose upon the world, giving animation and joy to mankind, destitute, wretched and deprived of all hope, as well as of liberty. In vain did the wretched nobleman intreat his foes to end his tortures, by annihilating him; now life was cruelty; and where death would be mercy, they restrained their swords, and mocked his sufferings. But their unfeeling taunts added not to his sorrows; he was too much engrossed by the contemplation of his sudden

and desperate change, to pay attention to their intended insults; and when the leader, with a look of savage exultation exclaimed—"Come noble Count, the Governor has determined that thy sufferings shall be such as to deter others from following thy example," not a muscle of his countenance was agitated, but all his faculties seemed locked in the freezing apathy of despair. Once indeed his countenance fell, when he saw the tears of his Florida, but the heroic object of his solicitude recalled his fortitude, and changed his sorrow to a smile, when she ejaculated cheerfully—"Fear not, father, we have a great avenger; and the designs of our enemies may yet be frustrated!"

The Governor of Zurich gave way to the most unbounded emotions of joy, when he heard of the complete

success of his expedition. He instantly ordered his prisoners to be brought before him, and, with the cruelty of a weak mind, began to insult the Count in the most gross manner. He pulled his beard, struck him, and loaded him with the most opprobrious epithets; but the nobleman was not to be daunted or irritated by such behaviour. "It is thy turn to triumph now," said he, with the utmost coolness, "gratify thy brutish inclination to insult those whom Providence has thrown into thy power, whilst thou art permitted. A few days may rob thee of the opportunity, and reverse our situations. My friends are in every cave of the mountain; and, like an avalanch, shall they rush down upon thee, and overwhelm thee before thou art aware."

This menace had produced less effect upon the haughty German,

than the charms of Florida which appeared so captivating, through the sorrowful cast of her countenance, that the cold heart of the conqueror suddenly felt a strange sensation, and he determined, on the instant, to preserve her life, in order to the furtherance of his own enjoyments. Not deigning, therefore, to reply to the Count, whose threats had indeed, equally with his coolness, been lost upon him, he relaxed the sternness of his countenance into a smile, and addressing himself to Florida, exclaimed—"Is it possible, madam, that the Count of Zur should have immured charms like yours in his castle until this period. You were formed to move in higher circles than those to which parental severity has hitherto restrained you. From this moment, you are free to roam about my palace, and to command here, as

though you were supreme mistress of all you see, as you are of my affections."

"Wretch," exclaimed the indignant Florida, who immediately comprehended the full extent of the insult offered to her; "freedom cannot exist in thy presence. I scorn thy offer, and court thy utmost anger. Thinkest thou that a woman of the house of Zur will stoop to parley with an unprincipled and base-born usurper. An arm stronger than thine, supported by the consciousness of right, protects us, and will terribly retaliate on thee and thine any injury which thou mayest dare to offer to us."

"Silly fool, dost thou scorn me then?"—replied the angry Governor; "Away then to the prison destined for thy reception. Ere long thou shalt find to thy cost that no arm can pro-

tect thee from my just vengeance. In the agonies of death thou mayest repent the rashness which had induced thee to scorn the means of escape offered to thee."

A deep groan from a distant part of the room, at this moment, caused the Austrian to start with evident terror; but his alarm was dissipated by the advance of the officer who had entered with the prisoners, and who brought forward two pilgrims, exclaiming—"Here, my lord, are two other prisoners whom we arrested in our march, thinking they might be spies, who had assumed this disguise, in order the more easily to avoid danger. The pains they have taken to conceal their faces tend to confirm my suspicions."

No further proof was necessary to convince the Governor of the truth of the charge; and, without deigning

to look upon the prisoners, he replied—" I commend your fidelity, and agree in your suspicions, Let the wretches be instantly led to execution. Such criminal actions must be punished promptly and severely, if we wish to prevent the infection of guilt from spreading rapidly throughout the country."

He would have continued, but a loud shriek from one of the prisoners arrested his unfinished speech, and was immediately succeeded by the following exclamation — " Tyrant, fill up the measure of thy crimes by the destruction of Lucette and Silezia."

Had a bolt from Heaven stricken the Governor, he could not have appeared more completely overpowered than by this unexpected discovery. He panted for breath, rubbed his eyes, looked wildly round the room

several times, then, suddenly addressing himself to the officer, he exclaimed—"Villain, answer me; art thou leagued in a plot against me? Tell me instantly, and without prevarication, how thou camest to meet with these pretended pilgrims?"

"My lord," replied the terrified officer; "not a hundred paces from the walls of the town, I marked them on the summit of the first acclivity of the mountain; no sooner did they perceive us, than they retreated precipitately out of sight; but, my suspicions being excited, I determined to head a party in pursuit of them, convinced, within myself, that they were nothing better than spies, who had returned to the mountains, after making their observations upon the town. I, accordingly, selected a few men and we rushed up the acclivity; in attaining

to the summit of which, we searched every nook and crevice, without effect, and were about to return unsuccessful, when, suddenly, one of them appeared behind a hanging cliff; and we immediately advanced and secured the fugitives. They covered up their faces most carefully, and as I was not particularly curious to investigate their countenances, since I had secured them, I made no objection to their appearance of modesty. This, my lord, is all that I know respecting the matter: I have participated in no scheme against you; but have ever proved myself faithful to whatever trust has been reposed in me."

"My lord," exclaimed Silezia, whose ready wit had suggested an excuse, "allow me to explain the motives which led my mistress and me to the mountain, which nothing but the dread of being laughed at by

the officer, prevented us from explaining on the spot. Your harsh words to my mistress made a deep and sorrowful impression upon her mind, and determined her to adopt some method to restore herself to your good opinion; and, as she knew not the situation of the cave, as she justly told you, we together formed the desperate scheme of disguising ourselves in habits which would protect us from insult, and thus searching amongst the mountains, until we should succeed in discovering the retreat of your foes. If we had succeeded, we should have communicated the result of our journey to you; but as we have not, we do but remain where we were at the outset. This, my lord, is the true state of the case, and I hope you will not be angry for the share I have had in the business."

"Is it so, Lucette? asked the

Governor, in a softened tone of voice, which bore evidence of his willingness to believe the artful tale which Silezia had prepared for him.

"Yes," replied the amiable girl; but as she uttered the falshood, she was obliged to conceal her face with her hands to hide the emotions which displayed themselves there; an action which her father attributed to the alarm which modesty had taken on being discovered. With a view therefore to re-assure her, he rose from his seat, and catching her in his arms, embraced her, exclaiming—"I have wronged thee, my good girl, but it was under a mistaken impression that thou preferedst the interests of the enemy to those of thy own country. Henceforward I shall know thee better, and thou shalt have no reason to complain of cruelty on my

part, retire to thy chamber, and take repose."

Lucette was not a little gratified at this termination of a scene, which, at its commencement, had worn such a gloomy appearance. She had, with great difficulty, supported the part of a dissembler throughout the scene; and she hastened to obey the commands of her father before her agitation should become so powerful as to betray her. As she passed the venerable Count of Zur and his daughter, she could not avoid pressing the hand of the latter, and whispering—"I will endeavour to serve you."

Immured in a gloomy dungeon, where scarce a single ray of light was admitted to dissipate the thick darkness, Florida endeavoured to reanimate her father, with the hope that Ulric might discover their fate,

and make a desperate effort in their behalf.

"Ah, my child," replied the Count, who was less sanguine in his hopes of escape, "do not deceive yourself into this belief, for it is not probable that any effort of his would rescue us. Desperate actions are seldom successful; and we are not to expect that Providence will work miracles to save two poor individuals like ourselves. I know too well the implacable rage of the enemy into whose hands I have fallen; for some months I have been an object of the most inveterate envy to him; he has before attempted to seize me, and his failure in that instance only rendered him more outrageous and determined. Death will be our only friend, and it only remains for us to die as we lived, at peace with our Creator."

" What a beautiful creature this young captive is;" said Lucette, when she reached her apartments: " and she is implicated with her father in the charge preferred against him. I wish I knew what was the nature of the crime imputed to them."

" I will enquire," replied Silezia, and she was as good as her word, for, before evening, she returned to her mistress with information that the prisoners were suspected of favouring the mountain band, and of carrying on a correspondence with the chief of the Swiss. " By our blessed lady," she added, " it was well for us that I had a lie at hand to appease your outrageous father, or Heaven knows how our project would have ended."

Lucette trembled, but it was not at the fear of what might have been

the termination of their scheme. A very different idea had taken possession of her breast. The prisoners were suspected of carrying on a correspondence with the chief of the mountain band; and there was a possibility that the female captive might be———. Her heart sickened as she thought what she might be. She had spoken of some mighty arm which would avenge her and her father, and whose arm could this be, but Ulric's? It was probable, then; nay, it was certain, that Ulric was the lover of this female. The first impulse of her heart, when she had convinced herself that she was right, was pleasure—her rival was imprisoned, and thus the obstacle to her wishes was removed. But she banished the unworthy sentiment from her breast, as soon as reason resumed it empire there. She might not be

the mistress of Ulric! There was a gratification in this idea which induced her to cherish it; but jealousy and hope kept up such a continual conflict in her bosom, that she could not obtain a moment's repose, and she determined to take some step to remove or confirm her suspicions.

On the following night, while the amiable Florida kept up her spirits with the hope that her Ulric would rescue her and her beloved father from the danger which impended over them, the door of the prison suddenly opened, and Lucette appeared, bearing a torch. She was known to Florida, who had closely scrutinized her features, when she pressed her hand, and whispered consolation in her ears, and the image of a friend is not easily erased from a grateful heart. Lucette paused at the entrance of the prison, to view, for a moment, the interest-

ing scene which presented itself to her. The beautiful Florida was seated upon a stone, which was the only seat allowed the captives; her father, stretched on a bed of straw, rested his head on the lap of his daughter, who with a filial affection which was not to be excelled, kept watch over him, and contemplated his countenance, which still was marked with the agony of internal anguish. A sigh now and then burst from her bosom, but the efforts she made to suppress it, lest it might disturb the object of her solicitude, rendered it almost noiseless, and it gently evaporated into air. A dim taper at a little distance from her, shed a feeble glimmer on the gloomy scene, barely sufficient to shew the extent of the horrors which had taken up their abode in it. There was no

second bed, so that the wretched pair were compelled to sleep alternately.

Lucette felt the warm tears chasing each other rapidly down her cheeks as she viewed the spectacles before her. "It was not thus," said she, mentally, "that the gallant and noble Ulric behaved to me, when I was his prisoner." As she thought this she advanced towards the seat of the amiable captive, and seating herself on the floor by her side, addressed her—"My heart bleeds to witness your unmerited sufferings; and if it lies within the reach of my ability to serve you, you may freely command me. I would willingly, a second time, encounter the displeasure of my father, to ameliorate the bitterness of your cruel punishment."

The agitated Florida gave vent to a copious torrent of tears before she

could reply to this friendly salutation. "Pardon me, madam," at length she exclaimed, "the voice of a friend in this abode is so strange and unexpected, that its sweetness overpowers me. Oh! if my father's sufferings could be alleviated; if he could be restored to liberty and peace, how joyfully would I lay down my life, But, alas! perhaps your power extends not to this."

"I will try what I can do," said Lucette, in a musing tone, "you ask much, but your request is so disinterested that I will exert myself much in your behalf. But have you no tie to bind you to life? Is there none for whom you wish to live? Have all the prospects of a long futurity so barren an aspect to you, that you wish not to realize them?"

Florida sighed deeply, and wiped away the tears which gathered in her

eyes. "Yes, angelic creature," said she in a whispering tone, "existence has many charms for me, yet I would resign them all to save him who gave me existence. I have images in my heart which can never be erased but by the icy fingers of death." As she said this she took the ring which Ulric had given her from her finger, and pressing it to her lips fervently, added—"witness thou for thy master; thou pledge of an affection as sincere as mine, thou solace of my captivity."

Florida cast her eyes upon Lucette as she concluded, and beheld her pale and gasping for breath. Her countenance was agitated by a thousand contending emotions, and for some minutes she was incapable of speech. When she recovered herself, and perceived the eyes of the captive fixed upon her with a pene-

trating gaze, she felt a confusion which caused the blush of shame to crimson her countenance, but it was the hectic of a moment, and when she had banished it, she returned the scrutinizing look of Florida, as she ejaculated, in a tone of affected sympathy, "Alas, poor girl, thou too hast an Ulric!"

Her words pierced the ears of the fair prisoner, who, clasping her hands together, passionately exclaimed—"Then we are irretrievably lost; our secret is betrayed, and Heaven only will have mercy upon us!" As she said this with a louder voice than before, her father started from his slumbers, and cried out—"Where are they Florida? Didst thou say thy Ulric was arrived? Oh! happy news, we shall again see liberty and peace! But, where are they; where are our deliverers?

Alas! Here is nothing but darkness; my ears deceived me!" The exhausted Count fell back upon his straw pallet, as he pronounced these words, and Florida dropped senseless by his side, ejaculating—"my father; oh! my father!"

The jealousy which had seized possession of the breast of Lucette, when she saw her suspicions realized, had now given way to the softer sentiments of pity. "Why should I fear?"—she thought: "my rival cannot escape; she must fall a victim to the rage of my father; and, if I set her father at liberty, I shall have a claim upon the affection of Ulric." She, accordingly, set herself to soothe the agitated captives; and, after much labour, she succeeded in convincing Florida that her fears lest she should have been betrayed were altogether unfounded; and

that her secret was known to *her* alone. She then informed them of her captivity in the cave; of the generosity with which she had been treated by Ulric, and his liberality in sending her to Zurich, without a ransom. But she carefully suppressed all mention of her own sentiments towards her benevolent and amiable conqueror.

The heart of Lucette was compassionate and kind; but love and jealousy at this moment ruled so uncontroulably in her bosom as to cloud the better feelings of her nature. When she saw the Count and his daughter in distress, suffering unjustly from the cruel tyranny of her father, she would have braved his displeasure, and the censures of all her countrymen, in her exertions to serve them; but when she beheld, in the person of Florida, a beloved

rival, and in her father, an obstacle to her own views, she felt indecisive whether she should accelerate their liberation or their destruction. One moment beheld the triumph of jealousy, the next the preponderance of humanity; then the better principle was again defeated, and thus an internal warfare was kept alive, of the termination of which it was scarcely possible to judge. She left the prison, however, without betraying her own secret, with a promise to use her utmost influence in the behalf of the sufferers, and flew to obtain the advice of her friend.

"Alas, Silezia," said she, when she entered her own apartment; I have removed my suspicions at the expence of my happiness. This young captive is no common rival, but the favored and happy mistress of the mountain warrior. They are

now in my power; by suffering her to remain the prisoner and victim of my father, I shall remove the great obstacle to my wishes; for when Ulric shall learn that his mistress exists no longer, he will the more readily listen to the vows of Lucette. Advise me, my friend, how to act; shall I get rid of my rival, or heroically throw aside all selfish principles, and restore her to liberty and love?"

"How you would wish her to act if your situations were reversed, so do you act now:" was the noble reply of Silezia; for she had ever been taught to consider a strict adherence to virtue as the chief good; and when Lucette seemed to dwell with a degree of triumph upon the circumstance of the captivity of her rival, she felt an emotion of indignation rising in her breast, and, for the first

time in her life, looked upon her mistress with diminished respect. But there was a trifling difference in their situations; Lucette's principles were, generally, as virtuous in their fruits as those of Silezia, but love had thrown them into obscurity at this period; whereas the principles of the latter were unclouded; she felt no amatory influence warring against the powers of reason, and she was, consequently, unbiassed in her judgment, and was enabled to decide without hesitation.

"And would you persuade me to act so as to blast my own hopes and prospects for ever?—asked Lucette, in a tone of voice which proved that she had expected a reply of a very different nature. "Consider, my dear friend," she added, "the present opportunity lost, can never be recalled. I must tear Ulric from my

bleeding heart. I must see him lavishing on another those caresses which I might have engrossed to myself, if I had made a different use of the power which fortune had once given me. I must, too, give my rival the sting with which she will destroy my happiness. Oh! Silezia, place yourself in my situation; imagine that you loved as I love; and that by one act, you might rid yourself of the impediment which kept you from happiness. Could you then decide so heroically, and with so little anguish, to cast the bliss from you?"

"Perhaps not so heroically," was the reply of Silezia, "but with equal firmness, I trust. What happiness could you enjoy if you gained your ends, when you considered that you had purchased them at the price of virtue. Your bliss would be an ill-gotten treasure which could never flou-

rish. Whenever you thought of the daughter of Zur, a thousand fears, a thousand tortures would assail you, to which your present sufferings bear no comparison. Recollect yourself, my friend, and let virtue regain her accustomed influence in your bosom. There was a time, Lucette, when you would have argued in a very different strain."

"There was a time, Silezia, when I had not seen the fascinating Ulric," was the impatient reply of Lucette; "but I am peculiarly unfortunate. I was captured by an enemy, and when he gave me freedom, my truant heart rejected the proffered liberty and preferred a voluntary bondage. Oh! my friend, I am not the same Lucette, as formerly; pity, forgive and love me. I cannot give life to my rival."

Silezia paused for some time, at

length she replied—"My dear mistress, is it grateful to destroy the happiness of him, who, when fate had thrown you into his power, liberally restored you to your freedom and your friends? Will you, to compensate this generosity, retain her who constitutes the bliss of his life? Will you dash the cup of felicity from his lips, and drive him to wander forlorn and miserable? Do you wish to behold your friend, your protector, draining the bitter cup of misery, and pining away, the victim of hopeless anguish? Alas! where are the noble principles which once actuated the bosom of Lucette? has Silezia to mourn the loss of her virtuous friend?"

The agitation of Lucette, which had gradually increased during the remarks of her friend became at the last so intolerable, that she threw herself into the arms of Silezia, and

with a deep sigh lapsed into a state of insensibility. It was some time before her friend could recover the suspended reason of the indecisive sufferer; at length, however, she reopened her eyes, and gazing wildly round her, for a few seconds, she exclaimed—"I have as yet committed no crime, Selezia, thanks to thy guardian genius; pray to the virgin for me that I may preserve my virtue unstained through life."

The happy Seizlia, transported to witness this change in her friend, caught her in her arms, and, tenderly embracing her, replied—"I knew my kind and amiable mistress would not long remain under the influence of erroneous principles. It was but a momentary preponderance of the most powerful of human passions, and you have gained more honor by triumphing over it, than if you

had never deviated for an instant. It is not the person who retains integrity in the absence of temptation, who shines the brightest example of virtuous fortitude; but the individual who successfully stems the torrent of the most powerful attractions, and remains uninjured by the tremendous assault. You have obtained a glorious victory, and the feelings of virtue will reward you."

"If I have been preserved, my dear Silezia," replied Lucette, in a languishing voice which shewed how weak she remained after the contest; "the honor is exclusively yours; but for your opposition I should have been carried by the impetuosity of my feelings, down a precipice which would have proved fatal to me; but for you I should have been guilty of a crime for which a subsequent life of penitence would never have a-

toned; but for you I should have committed the worst of all murders, the destruction of the happiness of one who rendered me the greatest benefits, who when a conqueror, knew how to respect and to conquer the affections of his prisoner. Oh! Silezia, do not leave me, until we have considered some plan for the rescue of the unhappy captives. They are not more guilty than ourselves, and if there be guilt in supporting a virtuous cause, we ought to share their punishment."

"Whatever we do, must be done quickly," answered Silezia, "we know the inveteracy which your father bears to the unfortunate house of Zur; and we have reason to fear that he will lose no time in wreaking the vengeance upon them which he menaces. If we have hope to save them, we must be resolute and quick. I al-

most tremble lest we may not be able to accomplish our efforts. If we can obtain admission into the prison, we ought to release our friends this night; to morrow may put it out of our power to serve them."

Lucette perfectly concurred in this idea; and the two females bent their way to the prison. There was no great difficulty in prevailing upon the officer on guard to retire, and give free admission to the daughter of the Governor, of whose patriotism the highest opinion had gone abroad, ever since the artful story of Silezia, when they were counteracted in their intention of proceeding to the cave of the mountain band. Florida, in her turn, was now stretched on the couch of straw, while her father supported her head, and shed abundance of silent tears,

as he gazed upon the form, and thought of the uncertainty of her fate upon whom all his hopes rested, and in whom all his joys were centered.

"Gracious Heaven," exclaimed Silezia, unable to repress her indignation and astonishment, "and is this the only bed which the hard-hearted tyrant could afford for thee to stretch thy delicate limbs upon? "Her voice arouzed the Count from his abstraction ;and, casting a melancholy look around him, he noticed his visitors only by slight inclinations of his head. Lucette and her friends approached him—"Wouldest thou escape from thy gaolers, rise, awake thy daughter and begone," whispered the former. The astonished nobleman, casting a mistrustful look upon her, replied, in an equally low tone—"Do not sport with the miserises of a poor old man, bnt suffer him to remain and die in peace."

The fair visitors, however, after some little difficulty, convinced the Count that they were in earnest, and Silezia produced the two hermits' disguises which had been worn by herself and her mistress on a former occasion. Florida, in the mean time, had been awakened by Lucette, and the females having retired, the captives soon arrayed themselves in their new garbs, and appeared ready for escape. "Take this key," said Lucette, to the Count, and when you have descended by the staircase at the end of this passage into the hall you will find a small door, which it will open. This door will admit you into a subterraneous passage, which will conduct you under the walls of the town to the foot of the mountain. Be careful to close the door after you, for you will then be secure from the strictest search: the secret passage is

only known to myself and my father, who will not recollect it. If any one should stay your passage, produce this ring, and say 'Lucette,' and no further interruption will be given you. I have little more to add; when you reach the cave of the mountain, say to the gallant chief that Lucette will never lose sight of his————." Here her voice failed her, her agitation became too great for her to suppress; Florida herself seemed astonished; the Count looked upon his deliverer with a more penetrating gaze than he had previously ventured to direct towards her; when Silezia, fearful for the honor of her mistress, resumed—"Tell him, noble Count, that his magnanimity has made an impression upon our minds which never can be erased; and that we are, in heart, sincere friends to his cause and yours."

The surprize of the Count and Florida was immediately dissipated; the former took the hands of his fair deliverers, and, lifting his eyes to Heaven, as he pressed them to his lips, he silently invoked the blessing of Providence upon the virtuous. The ear of Heaven received the petition, and granted the prayer; a happy serenity diffused itself over the mind of Lucette: it was the hour of her triumph and her reward. A smile of gratification played upon her countenance, as she listened to the retiring steps of the rescued captives, and as Silezia whispered in her ear, while they retraced their way to their chamber—"My beloved mistress, you have acted nobly."

THE TANJORE MAHARAJA SERFOGI'S SARASWATI MAHAL



## CHAPTER. X.

When the confederated bands had refreshed themselves, in the cave of the mountain, after the severe toil they had undergone, Ulric requested to be informed of the particulars which had led to the happy meeting at that critical juncture, when the victory hung poised without being able to determine where it should preponderate.

"It was a glorious moment," exclaimed Ap Gryff, striking his fingers rapidly across the strings of his harp which sent forth a most melodious response. The new troops started at the harmonious sound, and fixed

their eyes inquisitively upon the powerful instrument; but the strain was not repeated; the musician had merely given way to a momentary enthusiasm, but now he strained his ears to catch the interesting narrative.

"The peasants of Schaffhausen, animated by a glorious thirst after independence, and indignant that the power of Austria should dare to interfere with the rights and privileges which had been hitherto held inviolable, resolved to unite themselves in a body and rescue themselves from the yoke of foreign slavery. A youth, named Geralden, was the first who dared to express sentiments of liberty. He was a peasant boy, and kept his flocks near the spot where the tremendous Rhine discharges its vast accumulation of waters into the gulph below: but, although of mean origin, his soul was expanded, and his

conceptions were inconceivably noble. He was seized and carried before the haughty Mellardo, the governor of our canton, as appointed by Duke Albert: the proud German interrogated him closely, but Geralden with the vigour of youth, united the prudence of maturer years; he answered with such art and equivocation that nothing which was alledged could be proved against him. Yet he was suspected, and this was sufficient; he was ordered for public execution, and Mellardo himself attended to see that he suffered. It was then that, urged by a wish for revenge, I endeavoured to stimulate my countrymen to rise and deliver the intended victim from the sanguinary power of the tyrant. In a few hours I found myself encircled by a thousand peasants, young, robust, ardent and impetuous: they had arm-

ed themselves with the bow and arrows which they had been accustomed to use in the chace, and with lances which they had manufactured to train themselves in the art of war. We hastened to the spot where the execution was ordered to take place, fully determined to rescue Geralden, or to perish. But fate overruled our efforts, and we could only gain his lifeless body; yet for his blood we made the blood of many flow. The tyrant fell from his throne, an arrow which I had directed against him forced its way to his heart, and with a curse on his tongue, he expired. The guards who surrounded him, sought to revenge his death, and to bear off his remains; they failed in both; our arrows stretched three hundred lifeless on the spot, and the residue of the mercenaries of tyranny ensured their safety by a precipitate flight. The remains of Mellardo served for

food to the birds and the beasts; except his head, which was carried before us, in proud triumph, through the streets of Schaffhausen. Panic-struck with the fate of their governor, the few troops which remained in the city surrendered themselves prisoners, and we emancipated our native place. If we had been assisted by some disciplined troops, we might have retained the possession of the place. With our weak and untrained force we began to fortify the town; and, being joined by the principal inhabitants, our numbers exceeded three thousand armed men. Confiding in the justice of our cause, we formed great ideas of our own invincibility; and laid plans for the extension of our victorious career throughout the whole of the Cantons of Helvetia. Already in anticipation, we beheld the strongest fortresses of which the Germans held possession submitting

to the irresistible valour of our arms. We beheld in imagination the inhabitants of Zurich, Berne, Lucerne, and every other city in the state approaching to pay us the tribute of their gratitude, and we already denominated ourselves the emancipators of Switzerland. But during these visions of future greatness, we remained not inactive; they were formed during the moments of labour, while we were strengthening our bulwarks, pointing fresh arrows, and forging new lances. We had kept possession of the town only four days when an alarm of the approach of the enemy was given, and at the close of the day, we beheld a host of Austrians pouring down upon us from the mountains, and sufficient in numbers to overwhelm our limited force. Upon a moderate enumeration, they must have amounted to above five times

our strength. But we had justice on our side, "and justice, my friends," said I, when I exhorted my gallant followers to do their duty, "is more strong than an army of Austrians of double the strength of that which now opposes us." My words were received with enthusiastic plaudits, and every Swiss, in the true spirit of liberty, vowed on his sword not to yield to the enemy while there remained the least possibility of maintaining the town against his attacks. On the morning after this heroic resolution had been formed, the attack commenced, and was repelled with a vigour which exceeded my most sanguine expectations, the repulsed Austrians left a thousand men dead under the walls of the town, and retreated, with the utmost precipitation to a considerable distance. The walls, however, had sustained some injury from the violence of the shock, and,

during the night, we set ourselves to repair the mischief. The dawn of the succeeding day beheld us again prepared for a powerful opposition, but the enemy did not chuse to renew the attack, waiting, as we understood from a few prisoners who fell into our hands for a reinforcement which was expected on the following morning, before they again exposed themselves to our destructive missiles. When we understood their intention, we resolved to anticipate it, and made immediate preparations for an attack upon our foes in the dead of the night. A few minutes past midnight, we opened the gates of the town, and poured forth our small army, silently as death; it was an awful moment, no sound broke on the stillness of the night, and every heart evidently palpitated as we approached the enemy's entrenchments, who seemed to be locked in the arms of sleep, self-secure from

any attack. A thousand arrows directed with fatal precision, and the application of a hundred fire-brands to as many different parts of the camp, rouzed them from their slumbers; many instantly returned into the sleep of death; but the rest, rendered desperate by the horrors which surrounded them, rushed to their arms, and opposed us with a fury which was irresistible; yet for three hours we continued the unequal fight, when finding our own inferiority, we attempted to retreat into the town, but a strong division of the enemy had completely intercepted our way, and were in the act of forcing the gates; they met with no resistance, and after continuing to fight against such vastly superior numbers, until the dawn of day, we had the mortification to behold the walls of Schaffhausen manned by the troops of the enemy. From this moment we fought with a blind

fury which only accelerated our own ruin; already had two thirds of my brave followers laid down their lives in the cause of their country, surrounded by twice that number of Austrians, who had fatally experienced the vigour which nerves the arm of freedom, and the residue of my band was rapidly diminishing; environed by foes, we had no hope of escape, and unable any longer to wield our weapons, or to resist the torrent which overwhelmed our powers, we threw down our arms, and were made prisoners: this was a melancholy hour for us, but I was actuated by the hope of once more escaping to render service to my country, and the event has justified my expectations. We were marched with proud triumph into those streets where, a few hours before, we had ruled; many were the tears of pity which were shed by our gallant

countrymen who witnessed our degradation; but no arm could be exerted to give us relief.

Thrown into one common dungeon, we were left to anticipate the most fearful punishment which tyranny could invent or inflict; but, instead of giving way to useless despondency, we began to concert measures for our escape. We numbered five-hundred, while the guard of our prison door, as far as we could learn from the slight glimpse we caught of them, did not exceed fifty armed men. We were, however, strongly chained, so as to render our difficulties more formidable, and whenever food was given to us, we were only released, by a few at a time, to take the scanty morsel which was provided for us. I soon perceived the method by which our chains were taken off, and I immediately

imparted the idea that if one could free himself, he might easily render the same service to others. In the midst of our resolutions we were summoned to take our trial; I was the first arraigned as the leader of the rebels, as our haughty conquerors styled us, and I was led into a spacious hall which was crouded by Swiss and Germans, who, although influenced by very opposite emotions, were anxious to behold the mock trial. I witnessed, amongst the spectators, several of my acquaintances, from whose significant signs and inspiring looks, I was led to draw the hope that a scheme for our rescue was in agitation. The trial was soon over, little proof was necessary for my conviction. I was taken in arms, and I deserved death for daring to oppose those who sought to promote the welfare of my coun-

try; and sentence was accordingly passed upon me, that I should be executed on the following morning, in the public market-place. As I was leaving the hall, under the charge of two soldiers, my guards were suddenly separated from me by the rush of an immense crowd, but the arrival of fresh soldiers again dispersed the people, from one of whom I received a slip of paper which I hastily concealed in my bosom. When I was again immerged in my prison, I tore open the paper which had been given to me, and read the following mysterious words, which again revived hope in my bosom.

"Fear not, gallant Swiss, thou hast a thousand friends. Suffer thy enemies to lead thee to execution, and thou shalt escape the fate of Geralden. When the first sound of the trumpet shall wake thee in the

morning, believe that thy preservers are on the alert."

I was re-assured by the contents of this paper, and began to consider myself as again free, notwithstanding the decree which doomed me to destruction had gone forth against me; and similar confidence did I instil into the breasts of my fellow prisoners, who met their trial with an indifference which astonished our inveterate judges. When the evening closed in, our anxiety began to assume a more serious complexion; and we closely deliberated on the best mode of affording assistance to our unknown friends. "We must die, my friends (said I) unless we make a desperate effort. If we perish in an attempt to escape, we shall fall with more glory than at the place of public execution; we shall avoid a public degradation,

which is more bitter to us than even death itself. Let us this night exert ourselves to knock off our chains; and, when I am led forth to execution in the morning, it will be easy for you to rush out after me, and assault the guard. Once get possession of their arms, and half the obstacles will be overcome. Let us trust to our friends for the rest." My advice was joyfully received, and when, after some violent efforts, one of my comrades obtained the liberty of his hands, our joy arose to the highest pitch. Suffice it to say, that we laboured so effectually, as to gain our full liberty before the dawn of the morning. I thought it adviseable, however, to resume my chains, and my fellow prisoners placed their's in such a manner as to deceive the vigilance of our guards, and thus prepared, we waited for

the terrible moment, when we should be visited by the ruffians who were charged with our execution. It soon arrived, and my fetters being knocked off, I was summoned to accompany my executioners, with new taunts, which I returned only by a smile of contemptuous defiance. I had scarcely passed the threshold of the prison, before the half-closed door again suddenly burst open, and in an instant above twenty of the Austrian soldiers on guard, lay lifeless at my feet, and their arrows and lances were turned against their companions. In less than half an hour the conquest was cumpleted; the whole of the guard was annihilated, and sixty of my comrades, completely armed, led the way down the stair-case of the castle. We reached the room where the arms of the garrison were deposited, and, without

interruption, equipped ourselves completely, and sallied into the street. At this instant the blast of a trumpet struck on our ears, and we beheld ourselves assailed by a strong detachment of the garrison, but our desperate fury compelled them to fly, after leaving half their number in the street. At this moment a new band appeared of nearly a thousand men, on approaching whom, I recognised some of my own friends. A reciprocal shout expressed the joy we felt at this meeting, and we rushed forward with the utmost celerity towards the gates of the town, for we well knew that it would be vain to attempt to combat with the numerous strength which would shortly be marshalled against us. We succeeded in our design, the gates were just opened, and only a few straggling centinels appeared to impede our progress;

on our approach, they fled with the utmost precipitation, and we instantly found ourselves without the walls of the city. We pushed forwards to the foot of the mountain, and had ascended to some distance, when we beheld a numerous force in pursuit of us. We were now on the South-side of the Rhine, and on the opposite bank we knew there was a secret cave which would more than suffice for our reception, if we could reach it. There was no time to deliberate: a hundred yards beyond us, to the right, was the tremendous fall, and the water was perfectly calm at the spot where we stood. There had been a violent storm on the preceding day, and a number of up-rooted trees surrounded us. Desperate as was the expedient, we resolved to adopt it, and immediately began to launch the huge trunks; on which we embarked

our whole troop. Holding by each other's lances, we kept the trees together, a compact and immense raft, and had soon the felicity to find ourselves midway in the capacious river. Before the enemy arrived on the banks, we had gained the opposite shore, and we immediately hauled our uncouth vessels on shore toprevent the possibility of their return to render the same service to our enemies. A flight of arrows pursued us, but they mostly fell short of their aim, and we pursued our way to the secret cave, while our enemies, a prey to the most bitter mortification, were compelled to remain inactive on the shore. We were soon concealed from their sight by intervening glaciers, and took up our abode in the cave, which we soon enlarged, and rendered commodious. From the cattle on the mountains we were obliged to draw

supplies for our hunger, and the waters of the Rhine afforded us an unpleasant drink. Here we remained until the dawn of the following day, when a few of the band, who had been in quest of food, returned hastily, and with terror in their countenances, announced that our foes had passed the stream, and were bending their course towards our retreat.

I instantly ordered every noise to be hushed, and the whole of my followers to keep close in the cave, expecting that the enemy would pass the spot without discovering our residence. But I was deceived; in a very short time after I had given these orders, sounds of approaching footsteps penetrated the still cavern, and were quickly followed by the halt of the detachment of Austrians at the very entrance. "Here is a retreat which may contain them,"

exclaimed a single voice, "and here will we search before we proceed any further. Follow me, my brave Germans, and let us route the rebels, if they have taken up their residence here." The leader entered, as he thus exclaimed, and an arrow instantly dispatched him. "Oh! I am slain," he cried, as he yielded up his soul, "revenge me soldiers, and annihilate the traitors." A loud shout from the Austrians succeeded this ejaculation, and a shower of arrows fell harmless in the cave; for we had taken care to shelter ourselves behind the crags which narrowed its mouth, so that any discharge of missiles could not injure us. The stillness of the grave followed the discharge. "They are surely not here," exclaimed the foremost; "our leader must have fallen by the jaws of some monster, which has taken

up its residence in this gloomy place, for this silence would not be preserved if there was a detachment of men there. Shall we retire, or proceed?" "Proceed," shouted a thousand voices, at the same instant. "I obey," replied the victim, and his words were the signal of his destruction; he fell over the body of his commander, and groaned out his existence under the stroke of a second arrow. When the Germans found their leader dispatched again, they uttered a loud yell, and a dozen advanced into the cave, being as many as the entrance would admit together; the greater part of them sank beneath the attack which followed their appearance, but being rapidly succeeded by fresh numbers, they rushed impetuously into the dark abode, and a tremendous conflict ensued. Taking advantage of

the darkness, the Swiss retired behind the cliffs, and the Germans mistaking their own comrades, who had first entered, for their enemies, commenced a furious assault upon each other, and the carnage which ensued was heightened by the destructive missiles hurled by the patriotic band from their recesses. At length, the Germans, wearied with contending in the dark, retired from the cave, with less than half the number with which they had entered, and guessing at the fatal mistake which they had made, concluded that the asylum was not the residence of the rebels, but probably of a few robbers who were exterminated at the outset, and that any renewal of the attempt to enter the mysterious spot, might only be productive of fresh injury. They, accordingly, disappeared from the entrance, and re-

traced their steps to the shores of the Rhine; but I determined on an attempt to cut off their retreat, for our own band had sustained no injury during the recent contest, and the enemy were so reduced in numbers, and so dispirited by their unsuccessful efforts, that they were now inferior to ourselves, even in numbers and vigour. We accordingly left the cave, and, by a short passage, placed ourselves between the Austrians and the river, and commenced a furious attack upon them, just as they were turning the corner of some glaciers. The contest was violent, but of short duration: the thinned ranks of our antagonists, unable to resist the impetuosity of our assault, gave way in every direction; and those who escaped the slaughter fled in the utmost confusion, a hundred different ways. The pursuit lasted until the shadows

of darkness involved the landscape, and prevented us from following the fugitives any longer, with any good effect. We therefore retired to the cave, and occupied ourselves with removing the bodies which choaked up our residence, and which amounted to several hundreds. One evil consequence, however, had resulted from this contention, happily as it had terminated for the present, and this was, the discovery of our retreat. So long as we had remained secret we might have remained secure; and have employed ourselves in recruiting our strength, and maturing the plans of our future operations; but henceforth, there was no safety for us here and we instantly determined to break up from our residence, and seek a new retreat. On the following night, under cover of the darkness, we carried our purpose

into execution; and fortunate we were, that we acted so promptly, for we gained a distinct view of some soldiers who were rounding the cliffs, and from the clatter which succeeded we were convinced that a very formidable force was even then marching to destroy us. We therefore accelerated our speed, and with new vigour pushed forward across the mountains, nor did we think it prudent to pause from our march, until the dawn of the morning shewed us the mountain which contained our abode, at a very considerable distance. We then halted between two lofty glaciers, and made a hearty meal upon some chamois, hares, and rabbits which fell before our arrows, and afforded a grateful refreshment, after the long march we had encountered. When we had thus renewed our strength we continued our way,

through the day, and the succeeding night, feeding on what the bounty of Heaven threw in our way, and, on the second morning, we found a chasm in the mountain, into which we adventured, not without some difficulty; having created a light to guide us into the unknown abyss. When we approached the termination of the cave, which was too contracted for our reception, we were startled by some deep groans, which seemed to proceed from some undiscovered crevice in the side. We immediately advanced to the spot, and discovered an old and venerable man, lying, apparently, at the point of death; his beard was long and gray, and he appeared to fall the victim of age. When he saw us, he attempted to speak, and in a trembling voice enquired who we were, and what we sought? I explained to him that we

were in search of a cave which would give us shelter, until we could obtain an opportunity to render our country service. " An hour's journey from this place," said he, " at the summit of the mountain, you will find what you seek. There is a cavern which is sufficiently capacious to contain some thousands of men: but about four day's march to the North, you will find a band of heroes headed by Ulric Gribenholt, a youth who is the terror of the Germans, and who will free his country from her galling yoke. In the mountains of Zurich he maintains himself against all the efforts of his enemies, who have already sacrificed an army more than treble the amount of his, without doing him any serious injury. Thither you should bend your course and, united with him, your efforts will be more successful, and tend to

serve Switzerland more effectually. May all the saints support your cause, and may my country soon see the dawn of her deliverance." The old man, as he said this, expired, and having interred him at the mouth of the cave, we bent our way to the summit of the mountain, in order that we might have time to recruit ourselves before we went in search of you. In our ascent, we fell in with several peasants, who joined us readily, and by their means, in a few days we gained an addition of five hundred men to our troop; and our hopes again revived and carried us forward to the anticipation of great triumphs. We speedily came to a decision to set forward in search of your gallant band, the fame of which had spread itself among the peasants which surrounded us, with as little delay as possible; and, after remaining about

a week in this friendly cave, we once more left our retreat, and commenced our march, recruiting, as we proceeded, since I considered that the greater the force I could present to the heroic chief, after whom I sought, the better would be my welcome, and the greater the probability of some glorious and important achievement being brought about by our united efforts. At the close of the first evening, we encamped in a valley, betwixt two mountains, and about midnight the centinels on duty having given an alarm, we seized our arms, and turned out to meet a band of Germans, who were escorting a prodigious convoy of provisions, arms, and stores of every description through the valley. As the numbers of the foe did not equal ours, they entertaining no suspicion of the existence of an enemy in their line of march,

a short contest was sufficient to possess us of all the property which had been entrusted to them, and we immediately turned the course of the convoy, and sent it forward towards the residence of your band. The enemy had been mostly destroyed, in this conflict, and the few which had escaped, having made a precipitate flight, we were fearful that an immediate attack would be made upon us by a new force, we therefore judged it expedient to strike our tents and recommence our march, in order to elude any pursuit which might take place. Without delay, we quitted the valley, and ascended the mountain over which our path lay, and the first glimmer of the dawn found us on its highest summit, just entering upon a spacious plain, which extended far as the eye could reach, and was bounded by new and stu-

pendous ridges whose white tops, surfaced with snow, were scarcely distinguishable from the fleecy clouds which crowned them. Along this plain we kept forward, until, driven by hunger, we were compelled to stretch ourselves on the ground, and refresh ourselves out of the ample stores which had resulted to us from the attack of the preceding evening. There was abundance of delicious wine, which imparted new strength and spirits to us, and gave us new vigour to proceed on our journey.

No further interruption impeded our progress, until the dawn of the fourth morning, after we had pushed forward on our way, when we entered upon this long chain of mountains, the sight of which would have appalled us, had we not called to mind that we must have nearly approached to the end of our march. A few hours afterwards, we met

numbers of peasants, flying in the utmost trepidation and alarm; and, on enquiring into the cause, we were informed that a tremendous battle had been begun, about two hours' journey to the Northward, between the Swiss warriors of the mountain, and an army of Germans from Zurich, who were much stronger than their antagonists, and vowed to shew no mercy to them. I ordered these fugitives to be stopped and added to my own troop, and arms were put into their hands; after which, I pushed forward with new rapidity, in order that I might be able to give some effectual support to my gallant countrymen, before the issue of the battle might render my interference useless The nearer I approached the scene of contention the more fugitives I met, who were flying in the utmost terror, exclaiming—" The

cursed Germans are too strong for the brave Swiss, and the gallant Ulric will find his attempts defeated and his hopes destroyed for ever." "Not if it is in our power to prevent it," I exclaimed; and, urging my soldiers to a new effort, we speedily marked the scene of contention, and sent forth a flight of arrows amongt our enemies to announce our arrival. You know the rest, gallant chief; we were fortunate in arriving at the critical moment, a circumstance to which your modesty has imputed the success of the conflict; although I am more inclined to attribute it to your own prudence and personal intrepidity. United, we may be able to accomplish great things,, and may look forward with a degree of rational hope to the emancipation of our country. When I beheld that I should have to encounter the foe be-

fore we reached your retreat, we sent our convoy, under the protection of a chosen band, by a circuitous route, which was pointed out to us by one of the peasants, who himself took upon him the office of guide. I begin to fear from the delay in its arrival, that some unpleasant affair may have occurred to retard it."

Ulric immediately dispatched Riesbach, with a detachment of the band to look out for the convoy, but they had scarcely reached the entrance of the cave before the sight of its approach chased the gloomy apprehensions which had begun to gather in the bosoms of the chiefs, and the whole of the rich capture was soon stored in the recesses of the cave.

"And we will now perform something worthy of Switzerland and the decendants of Tell," exclaimed Ulric, animated to enthusiasm, when he

surveyed the strength of his band, and the resources which had just arrived, and called to mind the brilliant success which had crowned the late battle. "The Germans (he continued) shall feel that we have swords, and that we know how to use them, to the confusion of all our enemies. The next consideration for us to decide is when and how we may best carry our victorious arms within the walls of Zurich. That city once captured, the foundation of Swiss liberty will be laid."

"And it shall be taken speedily," cried Ap Gryff, "by the powers of my harp it shall." And he struck the strings with an energy which thrilled to the hearts of all around, and aroused a degree of ardour in each bosom which proved that the fatigues of the fight, were account-

ed as trifling compared with the vast prize which was held out to them. Hurried away by his feelings, the bard stayed not his fingers, until he had produced a martial air, which ravished and electrified the new soldiers who had joined the band, and to whom the harmonies were novel and astonishing in the highest degree. The leader himself listened in mute admiration, and was utterly at a loss to account for the sensations which assailed him.

"Comrades," said Ulric, when the strains had ceased, "it behoves us now to use more active exertions. —We have remained concealed in the cave of the mountain hitherto; it is time to strike a blow which shall unnerve the courage of our enemy, and bring us nearer to the prize which we seek. Our numbers now exceed ten thousand valiant

men; men who fight for the repossession of the independence which has been wrested from them, and who will never yield but to the arm of death. Riesbach and I will, with the dawn of the morning, once more adventure into the town of Zurich, for the purpose of discovering the weak parts of the fortresses and the numbers of their defenders, and, with the permission of Heaven, before another week shall have rolled over our heads, Zurich shall be in our hands, or we will join those heroes, who have shed their blood for, and sleep in the bosom of, their country."

A plaudit, universal, loud and long, burst from the soldiers, as they listened to the animated determination of their chieftain, which met the entire approbation of the other chiefs, and it was determined

that a plan should be matured for the surprise of the town, as soon as the return of the daring chiefs should put them in possesion of the information necessary to insure success. Ap Gryff's affection for Ulric, and his fears for his safety, led him to start some objections to the proposed design of adventuring again into Zurich, but the impetuous resolution of the youthful soldier was not to be restrained by any considerations of personal danger—"What, my dear friend," said he, "shall I suffer a principle of fear to prevent me for a moment from executing any project which may be beneficial to my country? you know not the mind of Ulric if you imagine this. You forget the bright reward which alures him on, and bids him spurn every danger and count every ob-

stacle as trivial which impedes his way to glory and to Florida."

Ap Gryff said no more; he perceived that the resolution of his young friend was immoveable, and he stifled the emotions of apprehension which had discovered themselves in his countenance at the first mention of the project. It was by such means, he reasoned within himself, that Ulric would gain a still further hold on the hearts of his soldiers, who would feel themselves more forcibly attracted to him when they beheld him brave death, and place himself in those situations where danger shewed its sternest front. He was still, however, a little afraid lest the impetuosity of Ulric's courage, tempered as it was by a degree of prudence most extraordinary at his age, should urge him into difficulties from which he might not be able

to extricate himself; he trembled lest he should be carried away by excess of bravery to attempt things of the danger of which he had not formed a just conception. The old man, as he called these things to mind, felt himself uneasy and agitated in an extraordinary degree, and he determined to make another request—that he might be allowed to make a third in the enterprize—"my experience," said the old man, with such earnestness, that the tears started into his eyes, "may be of some service in case any danger should menace you; and my life is of little consequence; I should yield it up with sorrow if any harm shall befall you. I am active, although old, and I possess many secrets respecting the changing of the countenances, which may be of some use; you

will not find me a restraint upon your actions."

So earnestly did Ap Gryff intreat permission to accompany them, that Ulric consented; and the happy bard immediately banished every trace of apprehension from his countenace, and as he furbished his faithful sword which he meant to conceal about his person for fear of accident, all the fire and vigour of youth seemed to have returned to his features.

When all these arrangements had been completed, the band retired to repose, but not to repose did Ulric surrender himself. His busy mind was engaged in the delightful employments of reflection and anticipation. He had never beheld himself in such a commanding situation as at the present moment, a situation in which he might be permitted ra-

tionally to indulge in those hopes, which, at any former period of his life, would have been attributed to the vagaries of a sanguine imagination. He could now behold the emancipation of his country as no ideal prospect, but as a good which fleeted towards him, and invited his grasp. At the head of above ten thousand gallant warriors he no longer felt himself a weak instrument, compelled to confine himself to the gratification of inert wishes, and seclude himself within the recesses of the mountain. A capacious, a lovely vista opened itself upon his view, and he beheld the Austrian eagles scared and scowering the dust. He resolved, immediately on his return from Zurich, to commence the siege of the town in such a vigorous manner, that it should either soon fall before the irresistible fury of his assults, or, if defeated,

no time should be lost in order that the salvation of his country might not be retarded. Full of these ideas he fell asleep, and fancy revived the subject in the visions which presented themselves to his slumbers.

He saw the towers of Zurich, and beheld himself and his companions surveying their strength. He beheld the palace of the Governor, and saw the amiable Lucette beckoning to him; but when he approached her, the superb building suddenly vanished, and he found himself and his comrades lying in a noisome and dreary dungeon, fettered and groaning. On a sudden, the door again opened, and Lucette re-appeared. A reproach for her perfidy already hung upon the lips of Ulric, when she produced disguises, and bid them escape, if they would make her the companion of their flight, and if Ulric would

pledge his affection to her; the youth rejected the offer scornfully, and she withdrew; the gloom of the prison returned, and shortly afterwards the prisoners were carried before the Governor who recognizing Riesbach, orders him to be confined seperately. Ulric and Ap Gryff are led back to their prison, and Lucette again appears and gives them their liberty. They fly from the streets of Zurich, and Ulric borne on the wings of revenge, determines to release his friend Riesbach or perish in the daring attempt—On a sudden a gloomy figure crosses his way, just as he comes in sight of the cave, and exclaims—"Beware, the fate of Switzerland hangs upon thy prudence. One rash step will involve thee and thy country in one common destruction." The figure vanished, and while Ulric paused to fathom the import of this cau-

tion, his sleep dispersed itself and he awoke.

The vision had consumed the night, for when Ulric started from his slumbers, the dawn of day had ripened into maturity, and the beams of the rising sun shed their reviving radiance into the mouth of the cavern. The youth lay for some time to ponder upon the import of his dream, but the more he strove to find out its meaning the more was he perplexed. Why, thought he, should I care about the fancies of imagination, what can they avail either to retard or further my views? Yet I have learned one good lesson from my dream, and that is not to be too sudden in my resolves, nor too rash in their execution. For this piece of advice, I am bound to thank my nightly visitor, and I shall attend to it, but the day is far advanced, and much remains to be done before we

set forward on our enterprize, which must not be delayed beyond this evening, for Switzerland must be freed and that without procrastination. Leaping from his rocky bed, the usual couch of the warrior, he joined his companions, and in a plentiful repast from the stores of the enemy he soon forgot the phantoms of the night. Exhilarated by the wine, he gave a loose to the sanguine efforts of his imagination, and spoke, in livelier terms than before of the prospect of success.

"When will you return from your expedition into the town?" asked Illaro—

Ulric paused—"On the fourth morning by the dawn: if we come not then, let the rising sun witness a powerful attack upon the gates of Zurich, for we shall be in danger, or no more."

An universal groan burst from the troop as Ulric terminated his reply, when the chief of the Bernese answered—"Methinks, noble captain; it were better that we keep watch within sight of the town, during your absence; and that, in case of danger, you make a signal which shall be visible to us, so that not a moment may be lost in bringing our warriors to your aid." A general shout displayed the general approbation of the measure.

The eyes of Ulric were turned upon his comrades, when Ap Gryff returned—"The plan is an excellent one. Let us go disguised as chamois-hunters bearing our bows. If danger should threaten us so imminently as to preclude all chance of escape, an arrow discharged over the northernmost postern shall convey the intelligence of our situation. Then let your

aid, comrades, be like the lightning's flash, speedy and terrible; like the destructive avalanch, let your vengeance rush down with an irresistible fury upon those who have insulted your chief; like the falls of the Rhine upon your native mountains, gallant Schaffhausenburgers, let the sound of your approach strike terror into the bosoms of those against whom you bend your exertions. In the day you may secret yourselves with ease, at a proper distance, where you can command a view of the gate; and at night, you can adventure nearer, so that the signal shall not be wasted. Mighty may be the events of the next three days."

Ulric and Riesbach approved the measure of Ap Gryff. "Be it my task to keep watch the first night and day," said Illaro, eagerly. "I will take the charge of the second," added

the Bernese commander, "And to me shall devolve the residue of the task," cried the warrior of Schaffhausen.

During the day Ulric divided his troops into three equal detachments, and committed them to the commands of his three friends;" and let Larlach of Berne," he added, 'take the supreme direction until we return. Nor let this arrangement excite jealousy amongst you, my friends, for you are all equally deserving of my affection and confidence; but as Larlach brought the greater accession to my troop, on him let the care, and honour, if there be any, remain."

Jealousy knew no place in the bosom of the chiefs. United in one common cause, they owned one common principle, and their only rivalry was, who should do most towards the rescue of their country.

"I would not assume the command, if my friends felt themselves in the least injured or mortified by the measure," was the exclamation of Larlach. "None will fill it with greater lustre, nor to better purpose," replied the other chiefs, and thus the contest terminated.

The sun was in its wane, and dimness, the forerunner of night, curtailed the distant landscape from the view. From the mountain summit the towers of Zurich were no longer perceptible; and Ulric and his two comrades began to make preparations for their departure. Clad in suits of dark green, and armed with hunters' bows and spears, having first concealed the natural hues of their features, beneath a yellow tincture which Ap Gryff prepared from some berries, the three adventurers, accompanied by Illaro, who went to take

his station as centinel, bade adieu to their comrades, who, as moved by one impulse, unsheathed their weapons, and bending over them, in a solemn voice swore to revenge terribly any injury which might befall their loved leader, and his companions. Ulric wiped away a tear of affection which glistened on his cheek, and led the way out of the gloomy abode. After a march of two hours, they arrived near the foot of the mountain, and the night having gathered round, Illaro took his station within a stone's throw of the northern postern, which, being yet unclosed, afforded an easy entrance to the sworn enemies of those who guarded it.

## CHAPTER XI.

At the same moment that the three Swiss entered the gates, a party of huntsmen had passed through; and it was probably owing to this circumstance, that they obtained so easy an entrance; for, since the appearance of the two chiefs in the town, the precautions to prevent the admission of strangers had been redoubled. Of this, however, Ulric had not been informed, and he, doubtless, would have found more difficulty in procuring admission under any other circumstances. Immediately on their passing into the town, the gates were closed for the night.

"It was well for us that we loitered no longer," exclaimed Ap Gryff, in German, within the hearing of the centinels, "or we should have been compelled to take up with a less comfortable dwelling than our own within the walls; for the night is growing cloudy."

"The gates are opened at all hours to Austrians," replied one of the soldiers, "and would for the Swiss but we have been forced to become more cautious since we found out that spies had been in the town from the confounded traitors that inhabit the mountain."

"I should think the best plan," answered Riesbach, "would be to send a strong force against the rebels and entirely destroy them, so that there need be no fear of spies afterwards."

"Aye, aye, friend," returned the

soldier, "its very easy to advise; but for my part, may the blessed virgin (and here he crossed himself very piously, being a true catholic) defend me from being one of the strongest party the Governor could send, for its like running into certain destruction. Nay, if all the garrison were ordered out, I think it would fare badly with us, for we are terribly thinned by the rascals already. There is no finding their retreat out, and while we are looking for it, down comes a mountain upon us, or some devilish thing or another, that destroys almost half the soldiers, and then on a sudden, the rest are attacked while they are looking about for the enemy, and if one quarter of them gets home again, it is through the particular favor of the virgin. May heaven defend me from all such expeditions, is my prayer."

" And mine too !" re-echoed half a dozen soldiers at once, who had stood round their comrade, and confirmed by their dismal countenances, melancholy distortions and ejaculations all the terrible story which he had taken such infinite pains to relate.

" Aye, they must be terrible fellows," said Ulric, " but come, my companions, let us begone, for if you feel like myself you are tolerably hungry and fatigued after the toils of this day's chace ; and there is no occasion to loiter more than is necessary—Good, night soldiers !"

" Where are the chamois you have killed," asked the talkative centinel, who seemed unwilling to part from such good company—" I suppose like some of our comrades to day, who have been hunting after the two

Swiss that have escaped, you have had a lost hunt."

"We have, indeed, lost two days," replied Ulric, who was anxious to learn something more about these Swiss, "for we have not brought home a single one. But who were these Swiss, have you heard? We caught a few words about them, but could not learn their rank."

"No," returned the soldier—"why it was theCount of Zur and his daughter to be sure! Haven't we destroyed his castle; and had not we made sure of these birds, but somehow or other they got out of their prison last night, but how or where nobody knows. I fancy however, that the Governor's daughter was at the bottom of it, for she was the last seen in the prison, and I think she is much inclined to favour the Swiss, notwithstanding she pretends to be

such a staunch German. And I think, but never mind, yet there's no harm in just saying to you; I think, when sh a d her attendant, the other morning, were taken upon the mountain, in hermits' dresses, I think they were going upon no good, but meant to betray us to our enemies."

Ulric's emotion, during this conversation, would certainly have betrayed him, had not the presence of mind displayed by Ap Gryff preserved him. When he beheld the changes of countenance which indicated the feelings of the chief, he exclaimed—"Comrades, you may proceed: for my part, I do not feel inclined to give up the pleasure of conversing for a few minutes longer, with this entertaining soldier I have not found a more intelligent companion for some time." As he said, he turned Ulric round, and Riesbach, taking the hint

drew his commander away to a distance, where they might pause for the coming up of Ap Gryff, without being noticed by the centinels.

The utmost efforts of Riesbach were barely sufficient to prevent Ulric from returning to the gate to gather some new particulars, but when his friend entreated him for the sake of his country and his comrades, to refrain, he suffered himself to be restrained, and to suppress his anxiety until the arrival of the bard, of whose prudence no doubt could be entertained. "It is strange," said Ulric, in a low voice, "that the castle of Zur should have fallen into the hands of the enemy, without the intelligence of the event having reached us. Surely all the domestics must have perished or been made prisoners; and was there no friendly monk in the priory of Chamouny

who would take the trouble to convey the news to the cave? Heaven be praised, however, they have escaped, and will reach the cavern in safety, and may eternal blessings reward the amiable Lucette."

Riesbach had no time to reply before Ap Gryff joined them. He had obtained but few additional particulars, except that the late defeat had struck a new panic into the breasts of the Governor and all the Austrian inhabitants; and had reduced the garrison to little more than eight thousand fighting men. "About as many more," added the soldier, "remain wounded and sick, and the greater part of these will not be able to do duty these two or three months; so that the Governor means to dispatch a messenger, in a day or two, for more men, for we should be badly off, if the Swiss were

to attack the town, before the reinforcements shall arrive."

"But did you learn nothing further respecting the Count and Florida?" asked the impetuous Ulric.

"Only that the Governor had intended to put the Count to a very cruel death, and to keep his daughter to sooth his own hours of repose," replied the bard; and he is now implacable because they escaped him, and has confined his daughter and her attendant, whom he strongly suspects of having aided the prisoners. The officer had permitted them to enter the prison, during which time he withdrew, and, on his return, the prison was completely empty, and every avenue and part of the castle were searched without leading to the least discovery.

Ulric paused for some time, before he complied with the wishes of

his comrades to proceed. "What more have we to do in Zurich?" he at length exclaimed, "we know the present weakness of the place, and if we wish to improve our information, we should instantly return, and let the attack upon the town be made before another day shall dawn. No delay ought to take place."

"The gates are closed," returned Ap Gryff, "and to attempt to repass them to-night would only excite suspicions which might plunge us in irretrievable ruin. Besides the attack may as well be made four days hence as now, since the Governor cannot obtain a fresh supply of troops in less than a fortnight; and we cannot remain here without gaining some new information. We shall discover if we have any friends; we shall find out those parts of the walls which are most slightly guarded;

and we may be able to swell the number of our adherents."

Riesbach joined in these sentiments; and Ulric suffered himself to be convinced of their weight, and to be conducted to a house of accommodation, which he named, and which was well known to him, as being kept by a true Swiss, who would use his utmost to protect them, if any danger should threaten them, while they were in his house. His assistance to their designs would also be of inestimable value, as he knew the state of the public mind.

The host received his guests, and at their desire, led them into a secret apartment. Silently the adventurers followed him, and, when alone, Ulric exclaimed—"Host, the Germans have been worsted in this last attack with the mountaineers, I understand."

"They have, they have, sir," returned the host, rubbing his hands, joyfully; and then, suddenly, stopping short, he looked at Ulric, who had not yet thrown off his cloak, and added—"How do you feel, sir, when you think of the events which this battle may produce."

"As every true Swiss ought to feel," returned Ulric, still concealing himself.

"I rejoice to hear it, sir," replied the host, "and may God and all the Saints fight in our cause. Why, sir, do you know that the brave hero, who commands the Swiss, is my townsman? A gallant, comely, enterprizing youth as you would wish to see. Switzerland will owe much to him, if"——

"Dost thou know me, Henrick," interrupted Ulric, throwing off his cloak, and fixing his eyes upon the

host, without giving time to conclude his panegyric.

Henrick started, looked and looked again; then suddenly exclaimed—"The brave chief himself; yet, surely; I am mistaken. No, it cannot be; yet it is—Ulric Gribenholt.' As he said this he rushed forward, seized the youth's hand, and bade him welcome to his house. "All that I have is at your service, brave warrior," he continued; "and would that I could better shew my affection for him who is destined to become the deliverer of Switzerland, and the scourge of the Austrians."

Ulric, however, interrupted the warmth of Henrick's expressions, by informing him that himself and his brother chiefs would have need of all his services, while they remained in Zurich, to ascertain the number of their friends, and the state of the

walls. He further exhorted him to preserve a profound secrecy respecting their visit, and to represent them as Germans who subsisted on the produce of the chace. Henrick promised the strictest compliance with the wishes of his guests, and having laid refreshments before them, he retired, and left them to their considerations.

"We are safely housed for the night, at all events," exclaimed Ap Gryff, "and I think we are much favoured by fortune in being permited to find out so trueand zealous a friend as this Henrick appears to be. He seems an old acquaintance of your's, Captain!"

"Yes, my friend," returned Ulric, when I was yet a lad, and used to take pleasure in chasing the chamois from one precipice to another, Henrick would most commonly accompany me; and more than once, he has saved me from destruction,

when my ungoverned ardour has led me so completely beyond the bounds of prudence as to endanger my own neck. Once, in particular, the remembrance is to this hour as fresh as though the circumstance had occured yesterday, I had got into a cave, in pursuit of a hare which had run thither for shelter; and, without stopping to calculate upon the nature of the dark abode, I rushed after it, but fortunately, being obliged to stoop to enter the recess, my progress was delayed until Henrick, who had in vain called after me to stop, had time to reach me, when he suddenly caught me by the heels, as I was creeping in, and drew me back again. I never can forget the deep concern which was depicted upon his countenance. For some time he was incapable of speech or impression, and his appearance alarmed me more than the

idea of any danger from which he might have released me. When he recovercd himself, however, he procured a light, by rubbing two pieces of dried wood together, and, having made a blaze, within the mouth of the cave, he shewed to me the contents of the gloomy abyss. My head turns giddy when I think upon it; just within the entrance, yawned an unfathomable gulph, which I must have nearly reached when Henrick rescued me, and down which I should inevitably have tumbled. The consequence must have been my total annihilation. I have not been accustomed to tremble at danger; but, at that moment, I felt a sickness at my heart, which disabled me from pursuing the chace any further on that day. We returned home, and I have, ever since, regarded Henrick as my preserver. I have told the story right,

Henrick, I believe," he added, for Henrick had during the latter part of the narrative, entered the room with some of the flesh of a chamois, which he placed before his guests, to tempt them to still further indulgence.

"Yes, sir," replied the host, wiping a tear from his eye, "I have often thought of it since, I assure you, with something like terror; and whenever you and I sat down to eat of a chamois afterwards, we never did it, without calling to mind the particular event." But pray, sir, have you heard of the destruction of the castle of Zur, and the capture and escape of the Count and his daughter?"

"I have, my good Henrick," answered Ulric, "but can you throw any light upon it, with which we have not yet been favoured. Every

thing respecting them must be interesting."

Henrick hesitated for some minutes, before he gave his reply. At length he began—"I may be wrong; but yet, somehow, I think it seems very like that my suspicions may be correct. You have heard the whole of it you say? If so you know that they are reported never to have been seen after they left the prison. This certainly sounds very strange, and will appear so to you, when I tell you that every part of the castle is so guarded, that no person could possibly escape without being seen. Now this account of their escape, therefore, appears to me to be only intended to blind the Swiss of the town and canton, and to enable the governor to carry on his designs against the prisoners with less interruption and greater secu-

rity, I cannot tell that this is the case; only my suspicions run that way. It is so singular that no one of the guards saw their escape."

The three chiefs looked at each other for some time in silence, which was broken by Ap Gryff, who exclaimed—"This appears extremely probable; yet we have heard that soldiers were sent after the fugitives, and that the Governor himself is implacable in consequence of the escape of his prisoners. To be sure, all this may merely amount to a scheme to keep up the deceit. If the Count and his daughter are in the power of the German, not a moment should be lost in freeing them from it; but how shall we be able to ascertain whether they have escaped or not?"

Ulric shook his head, but Riesbach, starting from his seat, cried out—

"I have it, Lucette will give us every information respecting them, She is said to be at the bottom of the scheme."

The idea was eagerly caught at, and Henrick promised to introduce the Swiss to the presence of the Governor's daughter by means of a son who was in her service. When this arrangement was concluded, the adventurers found themselves considerably relieved.

On the following morning, while Ulric and his friends were yet considering what measures to pursue through the day, Henrick entered with looks of consternation, and exclaimed—"Alas, my dear friends, the dangers which threaten you, increase every hour. Early this morning, a decree has been issued throughout the city promising a reward of one thousand rix-dollars

to whoever shall bring to the Governor, the head of Ulric Gribenholt, the mountain chief, who is therein described as a traitor to the interests of his country; and whoever shall harbour or encourage him, is doomed to suffer death without any trial, and his corpse to be exposed to the fury of the elements, and of the birds of prey. I declare, I tremble so excessively, that I can scarcely keep myself in any degree of composure to appear before my guests."

"Why should'st thou fear, Henrick?" asked Ulric, in a determined voice, and immediately resumed—"Switzer, is it for me that thou tremblest or for thyself? If thou wilt not give me shelter any longer tell me so at once, and I will seek it where I am yet unknown; or dost thou wish to gain the thousand rix-dollars, and make thyself rich at the

expence of thy fidelity, and the honour of thy countrymen? Speak quickly, I wish to know thy soul."

Henrick clasped his hands vehemently together, aud turning his tearful eyes on Ulric, replied, after a pause, of much agitation—"Chief hast thou so completely forgotten Henrick? Am I not the same Henrick that preserved thee in the gloomy cave? Am I not the same that was accustomed to hunt the chamois with thee—that even now has declared his affection for thee; and why shouldest thou insult me, so far as to suppose me capable of such an act of devilish treachery? It is true a thousand rix-dollars would make me happy, but shall I obtain them by the sacrifice of my country? Ah! sooner may I want the comforts I now enjoy, and hunt from rock to rock, over the most horrible glaciers, in

the midst of the roughest winter, without finding an animal to support life, or a cave to give me a moment's shelter from the tempest!"

"Thou art a Swiss to thy very soul," exclaimed Ulric, throwing his arms round Henrick, as he perceived the tears gushing from his eyes, "I have done thee wrong. Forgive me, honest Henrick, I was urged to say things which my heart never seconded, by the evil tidings which thou hast communicated. But it shall spur me on to prompter measures: I will no longer act with the cool deliberation of conscious security, but as becomes a man, who is surrounded by enemies, and on whose head a price is set—a man who is proscribed in his own country, for seeking to preserve that country. Thou wilt not fail to procure us the introduction to Lucette, for that

will bias our future proceedings. Here I shall still be safe, for who is there in Zurich who knows the person of Ulric Gribenholt?"

It was about noon when the page returned, and said that Lucette would receive the strangers, and hear the commission which they brought. The three warriors, accordingly, taking their hunting bows and spears, followed the page, and soon reached the castle of the Governor, which was situated close by the northernmost postern of the town. After waiting some minutes, they were introduced, and when the page had retired, and Ulric found themselves alone with the daughter of the Governor, he threw back his cloak, and Lucette betrayed her recognition of him by an exclamation of joy. Ulric, however, gave her no time for the repetition of her cry, but

exclaimed in a low voice—"When thou wert with us, we shewed thee liberty and kindness, and, by this pledge (holding up the ring which she had sent to him by Riesbach) I require that we shall be secure from exposure, while we remain here. Report has informed us of the capture of the Count of Zur and his daughter, and has added that they have escaped through thy assistance. Is it so, or is this rumour only propagated to deceive those Swiss who might exert themselves in behalf of the prisoners? If thou feelest aught of gratitude or kindness, for our treatment of thee. I conjure thee, by the blessed virgin to answer me truly."

"By the blessed virgin, I swear, that they are at liberty, and by my means;" replied Lucette, as soon as she had recovered herself from

the confusion into which she had been thrown by the discovery of Ulric's solicitude for the safety of her rival. She then continued, in a lower tone—"Oh! Ulric, for after the message I sent to thee by the gallant Riesbach, it would be absurd to conceal my real sentiments, would that I were as the gentle daughter of Zur! Would that I might be allowed to hold some interest in thy heart; for alas! my happiness is closely connected with thee."

"Amiable Lucette," returned Ulric, "pressing her extended hand to his lips;" thou hast the interest of a beloved sister in my heart; and thy welfare and thy life would I preserve at the hazard of my own. But thou hast given liberty to her who can alone possess my ardent love; and let me intreat, that thou would'st listen to some youth more gifted

than myself by nature, and one who may enable thee to obtain thy parent's sanction to thy union. For me, I am a proscribed traitor; and a reward is set upon my head; yet a few days, and I may triumph; but if fortune should render me victorious, let Lucette then demand some pledge that I have for her the affection of a brother."

Lucette wiped the tears from her eyes, but made no immediate reply. Her frame was too much agitated, to admit of controul and it was not for some minutes, nor until she had more violent exertions, that she became sufficiently composed to make answer—"Thou art a noble Swiss, and I love thee more, the higher the obstacles rise between us. Go, and when thou art happy with thy Florida, sometimes cast a thought upon that Lucette who loved thee better

than her own life, and would have sacrificed her father and her country to have shared existence with thee."

At this moment, an officer entered the apartment, to request the attendance of Lucette in her father's apartment; but the moment he saw the strangers he started, and, before they could recover their cloaks to conceal their faces, he had recognized Riesbach, for he was present when that chief had conducted the daughter of the Governor to the gates of the town. The moment he beheld him his colour changed, and hastily exclaiming—"traitors," he rushed out of the room.

"Blessed virgin, you will be seized, and I shall be miserable for ever," exclaimed Lucette, and immediately seizing Ulric by the hand, she led him towards the private door, by which the Count and his

daughter had escaped, and had already placed Ulric and Ap Gryff within the abode, when some soldiers rushed forward, and before she could save Riesbach they had seized him. The door, at that instant, was closed from within, before the guards could force their entrance in pursuit of Ulric and Ap Gryff, who speeded along the subterraneous abode.

In the mean time Riesbach was led into the presence of the Governor, who had dispatched the soldiers in pursuit of the strangers, as soon as his officer had communicated to him the circumstance of their appearance, and no sooner beheld Riesbach than he exclaimed—" Ah, haughty Swiss, it is now my turn to threaten. Where is now thy boasted prowess and coolness? Tell me now dost thou know nothing of fear? Now will I proudly triumph over thee; thy head shall

ornament the northern gate of the city, and thy mangled limbs the other portals, so that every traitor who passes, shall behold in thee a dreadful admonition."

Riesbach knew nothing of fear, but he was anxious to keep the Governor's attention upon himself as long as possible, in order that his comrades might have made considerable progress in their escape before their enemies should be in pursuit of them. Summoning up, therefore, the utmost coolness to his aid, he replied —" Austrian usurper, thou knowest better how to bluster than to fight; how to promise than to perform great things. Where are all thy choice troops which were sent to dislodge us from the mountains? Where are all thy boasted menaces? They are yet to be performed; and beware of thy own safety, for, the

moment thou shalt lay hands on me to injure me, twenty thousand arrows shall darken the sky of Zurich, and shall carry vengeance into every German's habitation. I fear thee not; I have been used to sterner frowns than thine. I have sat upon the highest Alps and seen the frown of heaven in a winter's night; aye, Austrian and I have alone braved a tempest which would have put a thousand Austrian armies to the rout. And dost thou think that the weak threats of a poor mortal can alarm me? Didst thou not threaten the noble Zur, with as much ferocity as thou now threatenest me, but how didst thou perform thy menaces? Is Zur fallen or fled: tell me that boasting German; and talk no more of thy power, which cannot even keep a prisoner."

The rage of the Governor was ex-

cited to madness by the coolness and the taunts of the undaunted Riesbach. For some minutes his fury was too great to be suppressed into any decent bounds, and he was about to descend from his seat, and strike the Swiss, who remained entirely unmoved, had he not been restrained by his officers. "Let him be carried to prison," said some, "until we shall consider what kind of punishment is due to his insolence and multiplied crimes."

Others with more impetuosity demanded that he should instantly be transfixed with arrows. "No, no," exclaimed a third party, "that would be too merciful an end for him. Let him be tortured to death gradually; so that his torments may continue from day to day, and the prolongation of his life, may only

be a prolongation of misery, which would be scarcely tolerable."

Riesbach smiled contemptuously, when his enemies looked to see if he trembled; and his indifference only aggravated their rage, and added fuel to a fire which already had consumed every other passion and feeling in the bosoms of the mortified Austrians.

The Governor remained for some time in doubt. At last, however, he determined to imprison the Swiss until he could make up his mind as to some punishment which might exceed in severity any other which had ever yet been executed. "Thy time, insolent rebel," exclaimed he, as Riesbach was about to be led to his dungeon, "shall be short in this world. Prepare thyself for such a trial of thy hardihood, as shall extort tears and groans from thee, aye, and supplications too, though thy

limbs were made of iron, and thy feelings callous as the rock. I will make thee tremble before my power, or I will never again boast that I possess any; thou shall find, to thy cost, that thy arrogance and rebellious conduct have completely estranged mercy from my bosom; and that the full weight of a vengeance, of which thou canst form no conception. shall fall and overwhelm thee. Traitors shall think of thy fate, and shall tremblingly deprecate similar horrors, by timely submission."

"If that is all thou canst say proud Austrian," returned Riesbach, who determined to gall him respecting his comrades who had escaped, now he could favour their escape no longer, thou mightest have restrained this effusion of thy rage until our next meeting. Thy utmost power has only been able to catch one poor

bird in thy toils; my two comrades are ere this, half way to the mountain, so that thou hast much cause to tremble. Ha! dost thou already tremble! How accommodating is German susceptibility! Now arm all thy garrison, and turn them out in search of Ulric and Ap Gryff, the chief and the bard of the mountain Swiss. Although thou hast not power to alter a muscle of my features, I have succeeded in working strange changes in thine."

"By Heaven, Earth and Hell!" exclaimed the furious Governor, "and have they escaped me. Soldiers; lazy scoundrels; sleepy officers run, rush, fly, send your arrows and your lances in every direction; let not a single foot of the mountain sides be unmarked by the points of your weapons. By the virgin, but I will put to death with my own hands

every miscreant who shall dare to return until I have gained again the prizes which have escaped my grasp. Oh!' what a glorious opportunity of revenge have I lost; yet, I have not lost it, for I will find the fugitives; they must still be in the city, and no corner shall hide them from my vengeance.

"My Lord," exclaimed an officer, "they have surely escaped by a private door at the end of the gallery, for there I saw, I hardly dared to believe my eyes, but I saw"——

He hesitated, and the enraged Governor struck him to the earth with his sword; then, suddenly recollecting himself he exclaimed—"Private door! By heavens, then I am betrayed, and they have escaped me. Yet who, surely it cannot—yes, my daughter has again thwarted me; but she shall thwart me no

longer, she is unworthy of further indulgence. I will no longer own her as my daughter, I will disclaim her, and, with my own hands, take vengeance. Bring hither Lucette !"

Lucette at this instant, entered the room, and, beholding her father, with his sword drawn, and still reeking with the blood of the officer who lay at his feet ; she immediately concluded that in the heat of his fury he was intent upon sacrificing her also. Advancing, however, with a firm step, she placed herself close by the side of Riesbach, when her father rising from his seat, with a countenance horribly distorted by the violence of his passions, made a step towards his daughter, brandishing his weapon, when Lucette calmly exclaimed—"The assassin of my Charles, I might have expected, would one day assiassnate his own

TANJORE MAHARAJA SERFOGI'S SARASWATI MAHAL

daughter !" She had scarcely given utterance to the words, before the weapon dropped from the palsied hands of the Governor ; an ashy paleness overspread his features ; he staggered and sunk into his seat, his fury was dissipated, and a gloomy horror had locked up all his faculties. Lucette gazed with considerable emotion,on her father's altered visage, and for a moment, she censured her own unfilial cruelty, but when she called to mind, that she had probably saved her own life by the expression, she instantly banished remorse, and gazed on the scene without suffering her countenance to betray a single trace of that agony which, at the same moment, lacerated her heart with its thousand stings.

The suspension of the Governor's faculties was but of short duration ; in a few minutes, he recovered him-

self, and waved his hand for the prisoner to be removed, and his daughter and attendants to leave his presence. The signal was obeyed, but Lucette, before she parted from Riesbach, squeezed his hand, and gave him an encouraging smile which assured him that she would not forget his situation, nor refrain from making any exertions which may appear likely to relieve him.

While Riesbach was undergoing his examination, Ulric and Ap Gryff having closed the door of the secret abode, to preserve themselves from the fate from which it was not possible to rescue their companion at this time, descended into the dreary path. All was dark and gloomy as the grave; not a ray of light illuminated any part of the opake, nor threw out a beacon to guide their footsteps. They, however, kept on

their way, for Lucette had whispered that the road would lead to liberty, and transport them to a considerable distance without the walls of the town. At length, they had the happiness to behold a faint glimmering before, which increased in magnitude and splendour as they proceeded; and after a long walk, they beheld the mouth of the abode, surrounded by hugh glaciers, about the mid-way up the first ascent of the mountain. Having extricated themselves from the darkness, they were about to clamber the glaciers, when the sound of approaching voices caused them some alarm, and occasioned them to retreat within the mouth of the subterraneous passage.

They had scarcely taken their stations within the gloom, when they distinctly heard voices in conversa-

tion, which seemed to be close by the entrance, and so near indeed were the persons, that the Swiss could plainly distinguish the following words, uttered hastily in German; and they found themselves completely surrounded by their pursuers.

"This must be near the spot which the Governor described," said one, "and here we are to take our stations until we find these cursed mountaineers, or our lives are to answer for it. I am heartily sick of such services, and wish I was again in Vienna. Here we have lost two thirds of our garrison already by the swords of these desperadoes, and the other third will soon be cut off, unless we are speedily favoured with some pretty strong succours. How long shall we remain here, comrade? Until some of

these confounded Swiss rush upon us from their hiding places, and destroy us before we have time to look about us?"

"By the Virgin. I will not stay an hour after sun-set," replied a second, "for we are but about fifty of us, and that number would not make a minute's work for these fellows. Oh! I wish we were well back again in Zurich; for I hate these ugly mountains, since they have become so dangerous. But suppose we try and climb up this glacier, we may chance to catch a chamois,"

"You may climb by yourself," resumed the first: "but for my part, I was never particularly attached to danger. But take care that nothing catches you. I have heard strange stories about deep caves which are in the mountains, and where some of the spirits of the dead take up

their abode. Ugh! it is getting fearfully dark over the mountains, I suppose we shall have a storm, for the sun is completely clouded, and it is not yet within an hour of its usual time of disappearance from us. I can't think what devil could urge duke Albert to take possession of a country, which shews us nothing but high mountains, the tops of which you cannot reach without running the risk of your life, at every step you shall dare to take. Why, I'm told the caves hereabouts are fearful places."

"Well, we don't seem to be very near any shelter," re-answered the second; "and I begin to think it will be as well if we wander into some more pleasant looking place, for this is horribly dismal. Suppose we get a little nearer to the town, that in case of attack we may be able to call

for assistance. I have no objection to meet with equal numbers at any time, but here we never know how many we have got to fight with, till we are in the midst of the battle, for they come from all quarters, riding on pieces of the mountains, and springing up out of the bowels of the glaciers, and always come in sufficient numbers to give us the worst of the battle."

"I wish we may never meet them again," resumed the other, in a fainter voice, which convinced the Swiss that they were retiring from the spot. Still, however, they scarcely dared to speak, lest the air should waft the sounds of their voices to the ears of their enemy, and for some time they preserved an unbroken silence. At length Ap Gryff, in a low whisper, advised his companion and chief to remain close

until the evening shadows should have deepened sufficiently to permit them to reach the cave without any danger of interruption.

Ulric assented to the plan of his friend, and they remained seated amidst the glaciers, and bewailing, in a low whisper, the fate of Riesbach, "I almost reproach myself," said Ulric, "for quitting him in that critical moment, yet I do not see how we could have assisted him. Our enemies were too numerous for our scanty arms, and delay might have involved us all."

"We did well to save ourselves," replied Ap Gryff, "since we could not have rendered the least service to our less fortunate companion. It will be in our power to render him a much more essential service by an assault upon the town to-morrow night, by which means we may save

him, and effectually counteract any views of the enemy with respect to reinforcements. It is, by no means probable that Riesbach will suffer any violence in the interval. For obvious reasons, the Governor will bring him to a public trial, in order that the mortification which he will thus be compelled to endure, in addition to his punishment, may operate as a check upon every other Switzer who may be bold enough to wish to contend against the Austrian power."

"I am satisfied," returned Ulric, "and, with the help of Heaven, to-morrow night shall be a fatal night for the Austrian power. But I have a burden on my mind which I much wish to see removed. Ever since I have discovered that the Count of Zur and Florida have really escaped, my anxiety has been extreme, lest

they should have been prevented, by any accident, from safely reaching the cave. I pray Heaven that my apprehensions may prove unfounded."

The bard endeavoured to chace every gloomy fear from the bosom of Ulric, and by the time that darkness had spread its veil over the mountains, he had succeeded in a considerable degree. The danger being now greatly diminished, the two friends clambered up the glaciers, and had soon the satisfaction to find themselves in the direct road to the cave, and within an hour's journey of the cave—" It was about this time last night," said Ulric, "that we reached the gates of Zurich, little thinking of such a speedy return; but we may thank heaven that we have escaped so well; considering the dan-

ger to which we were this day exposed."

"We may thank Heaven and Lucette, for let us not forget the share she had in the transaction," returned the bard, "and when we reach the cave, my harp shall speak my gratitude. I only wish our poor comrade Riesbach was with us to hear the strain."

A sigh from Ulric formed the prelude to a reply, when suddenly, a hasty step behind them made them start from their conversation, and bend their bows—"Who goes there, quickly speak," cried Ulric, forgetting his usual caution—"Answer, or my arrow shall reach you."

"One that fears no arrows, but can defend himself," replied a well-known voice, and Ap Gryff and Ulric, as they relaxed their bows, at

the same time exclaimed—"It is Illaro."

And it was so; the faithful Swiss was at that moment on his return from the watch, having been replaced by Larlash of Berne, and was bending his way to the cave. The friends were speedily known to each other, but Illaro started on seeing but two, and with a voice of some agitation, enquired what had happened to them to bring them back so speedily, and what had befallen the gallant Riesbach. "He is safe, I hope," added the Swiss.

A relation of the events of the day occupied the residue of the journey to the cave, on entering which Ulric was astonished to behold new faces, and was about to retire rapidly, when the well known voice of Father Ursulo banished his apprehensions.

## CHAPTER. XII.

WHEN the first joy of meeting had somewhat subsided, Ulric looked round the cave, and was astonished to see it completely filled with armed men, a circumstance which convinced him that Father Ursulo must have brought with him a force equal to the whole of the mountain band. But the Count and Florida were not there, and the chief turned a look upon Ap Gryff, which the bard understood, and answered by exclaiming—"Fear not, they will be here anon."

Ulric felt himself somewhat re-

assured, and with composure related what had befallen them during their absence, when, at the news of the capture of Riesbach, the whole band shouted for vengeance, and entreated to be led forth to rescue him. "To-morrow night we rescue him, and conquer Zurich or perish," was the reply of Ulric, Echo caught the sound, and gave it back to the cavern, and a shout which rent the abode was the answer of the transported Swiss.

One of the band was dispatched to recal Larlach from his post, which was now rendered useless in consequence of the return of Ulric and the bard, and to fill up the interim, Father Ursulo undertook to retrace the events which had occurred since his escape from the hands of the enemy.

"The moment that I found myself without the gates of Zurich," he

commenced. "I made the best of my way to a small but secret cave which I knew of, and which was scarcely two stone's throws from the walls of the town, for I judged that I should immediately be pursued, and if taken, I was aware that death would be my portion. When I reached the spot, I found I could not clamber up the rugged cliff which concealed the retreat so nimbly as I did formerly, and I was very uneasy, expecting each time I looked round me to see my pursuers at my heels. But heaven favoured my escape, and I had surmounted thedifficulty, and was already immerged behind the cliff when through an opening near the top, as I was letting myself down within, I beheld a troop of soldiers issuing from the town. I was now, however, past the danger, and having returned thanks to the Virgin for my preserva-

tion, I sought the recesses of the cave, which was itself invisible to all who did not know the secret of its situation, even if they had succeeded in surmounting the surrounding clifts, and there I began to cogitate on the best method for my future conduct. To remain any longer in the vicinity of Zurich, I knew, would argue madness, since it was entirely an unmerited chance, in that case, if I did not fall into the hands of my bitter foes, I recollected, however, a priory of Fransiscans near the lake of Lucerne, with the prior of which I was on terms of intimacy; and as I knew him to be a Switzer from the bottom of his heart, and an eternal foe to the incroachments and tyranny of the Austrian power, I determined to repair thither, in preference to seeking the cave of the mountain. I was urged to take this resolve, by a dou-

ble motive; in the first place, I knew that the passes of the mountain were guarded, since my escape, and that by going towards the cave, I should inevitably fall into the power of those when I had most reason to avoid. In the second place, I considered myself a worthless addition to your band alone, but if I could succeed in collecting a good force in the canton of Lucerne, with the assistance of Father Philip, I thought I might then unite my force with yours, and we might share in the glory of delivering Switzerland. When the night came, I accordingly left my retreat, and directed my course towards Lucerne: when the morning dawned I had completely left behind me the mountains of Zurich, and was past the danger of pursuit; since none of my foes could imagine that I had directed my course this way. At the cottage of a peasant,

I procured some food, which my dress insured to me, for I was still habited as the prior of Chamouny, and this dress certainly obtained for me many civilities which I might otherwise have avoided. On the first night of my journey, I also tasted repose in a cottager's hut, and it was the sweetest I had known for some time;it was rendered so by the fatigues I had undergone, by the recollection of the dangers of the day and night proceeding, by the cause of my present security, and by the anticipation of lending some effectual assistance to the cause of my country. With the dawn of the morning, after having partaken of the hospitality of the peasant, I again set forward on my journey, and continued without any interruptions, except those necessary for repose, until I had gained sight of the monastery of Dresbach,

whither I had intended to proceed. I was received with the utmost friendship, and when I had opened the purport of my visit to him, he entered into it with all the zeal which I had expected, and I soon experinced the good effects of his activity. Having given me a more becoming dress than that which I had assumed; he took me on the evening of my arrival over a hill behind the monastery, and having reached the centre of a spacious plain, he stopped near a large stone, and stamping his foot thrice, the stone sank into the earth, and a flight of steps appeared, down which I followed my friend, wondering what should follow this singular walk. My surprize, however, was soon changed into joy, when I marked a spacious cavern, lined with glittering lances, swords, and other weapons of war, while the middle of the abode

was occupied by a numerous band of warriors carousing, and waiting for the signal to commence a career of glory. "This," said Father Philip, "as he shewed me this great army, "this is the happiest moment of my life. For these twelve months have I incessantly laboured to collect this force, with a view to put it in motion, whenever an opportunity should offer itself for the rescue of Helvetia. That moment is arrived; yes, friends (he repeated, raising his voice on beholding them agitated) "that moment is arrived. Ulric Gribenholt commands he mountains of Zurich with a considerable force, and compels the proud Germans to remain within their walls, and it is to join yourselves with him, that my old friend now exhorts you to entrust yourselves to his command. The moment is rapidly approaching for the delivery of our country: the

union of these two bands will secure the fall of Zurich, and from that moment, our freedom will no longer be an hypothetical good. If any of you dissent from this proposal: if any among you will not march to the mountains of Zurich, to join your gallant countrymen in arms, let him step forward boldly, and I here acquit him from his obligations and give him leave to return home." An universal acclaim followed this speech, but not a voice was heard against the proposal; not a foot stepped forward to avail himself of the offer of the prior; all were resolutely unanimous in their concurrence. "Then you will elect me your leader and follow me to Zurich," said I.

An universal affirmation succeeded the question. "What are your numbers?" I asked—"Nine thousand determined fellows," replied one who

had hitherto held the command, and who now advanced towards me; "and," he added, "believe me, sir, they are men who will handle the bow, the sword and the lance with any Austrian which has ever yet passed the German frontiers." "With such men, then," said I, "we can accomplish great things" "We can accomplish every thing," was his reply. I now proposed that we should commence our march with the dawn of the second morning; for, "said I," delay may rob us of the honor of sharing in the conquest of Zurich. Our countrymen, whom we are about to join, are men of daring enterprize, men who will not wait for numbers to encourage them to undertake their project, but trusting to their own impetuous bravery, will meet and combat difficulties, which thrice the number of Germans would shrink

from with the utmost terror, If we long, therefore, to participate in the glory of rescuing the canton of Zurich from slavery, we must commence our march with promptitude, and continue it with rapidity. Night and day we must sacrifice to our wish to reach them, and then we shall, as we shall deserve to do, share in their dangers and in their fame'' my words were heard with the closest attention, and were received with long and loud plaudits; and it was instantly determined to commence our march on the next night—"for," said Father Philip, "before the dawn you may have left out of sight the mountains and vallies of Lucerne." The friendly prior remained in the cave during the night with us, and took his leave of us on the following morning; and from that moment, all was the hurry and bustle of pre-

paration. The arms which had for some time hung useless from the walls, were now taken down, and every man equipped, and ready for the journey half an hour before sunset. As soon, however, as it grew sufficiently dark, we quitted the cave, and having marshalled ourselves upon the plain, we soon commenced our march. We had scarcly crossed the first mountain, when the moon, rising in all her splendour, shed a lustre on the surrounding scenery, and rendered our journey infinitely more pleasant. As we traversed the immense ridges and Alpine traets, we enlivened the road with tales of the past, and projects for the future. No despondency, no fears, entered any breast, but all seemed alive to only one feeling, and that was excessive joy. When the morning dawned, seated upon a stupendous

chain of mountains, we refreshed ourselves with the flesh of the chamois and wine with which every individual was equipped, and, free from interruption, we retraced from the vast height the long and devious route by which we had travelled during the hours of night. The distant hills of Lucerne now received our last farewell, for we were about to plunge behind glaciers, which would finally hide them from our view. Yet no regret was preceptible in the countenances of any of the troop; all were stimulated by an ardent desire to push forward, and to waste no more time than was absolutely necessary for refreshment. "As for repose," said the young man, who had before addressed me, and whom I had appointed to command one half of the army, under me, "we shall taste that more sweet when we

can share it with our new comrades. We are now anxious to shew them, by the rapidity of our movements, that we are worthy to ccoalesce with them, for the emancipation of our country." Ere the sun had approached the horizon, we saw in the distance, the mountains of Zurich, stretching their mighty summits to the clouds. The scene was new to my comrades, but as we sat down to take our evening's repast, I pointed out the remote ridges, and exclaimed —"There my friends resides the mountain band of Ulric Gribenholt, and beneath these mountains rise the towers and the walls of Zurich; by the dawn of the morning, we shall see them more clearly, and to-morrow's sun will not have long passed his meridan before we shall be able to say that our toilsome journey is ended. I shall feel pride in recom-

mending you to the notice of my old pupil, who will receive you with open arms, and whose abode is sufficiently capacious for us all." We again set forward with new strength and energy, on beholding the termination of our journey, and when the sun arose on the following day, we were within an hour's march of the first of the chain of mountains on which was situated the place of our destination. At noon we rapidly approached the cavern, and when, at length we came within sight of it, what were my sensations on finding the usual entrance blocked up. A mournful sensation of the bitterest disappointment thrilled through my breast, as Istood and gazed on the ruin, and scarcely an intelligible expression escaped my lips—"Surely they are not exterminated!" my fears communicated themselves to my companions,

and a half-stifled groan throughout the whole troop, betrayed the sorrow which had taken possession of them. Our griefs, however, was that of a moment. While we were still pausing in a state of irresolution, a loud shout from within the cave burst upon our ears, and I joyfully exclaimed. " They are still here, and the choaking up of this entrance has been to deceive the enemy." Joy was as contagious now,as sorrow had been before. I commanded my troop to set up a shout, which was answered from within, and presently we beheld your gallant army above our heads; with their bows bent, but upon my making the signal of peace and friendship, they rushed down from the ridge, and throwing down their weapons,received us with open arms. It was then that we received the reward of our toil, in the applauses of our country-

men, and the joy which glistened from their eyes as they conducted us into the cave, and placed before us their provisions, communicated itself to our bosoms, and gave us the most complete happiness. I learned of your absence with a sensation very nearly allied to sorrow, for I began to fear, unless your former impetuosity had been much moderated, that you might involve yourself in some serious difficulty; but my fears subsided when I heard that the bard was your companion, since I was aware that his age and experience would meet with respect from you, when he should find it necessary to check the violence of your spirit, or to turn it into a different channel to that in which you might seek to give it scope. I see you again, however, and I am satisfied."

Ulric pressed the hand of his revered instructor, and exclaimed—"My

joys mature apace. I want but to meet my old patron and my beloved Florida, and my happiness would be perfect; around me I see gallant bands sufficient to snatch Zurich and Riesbach from the tyranny of the foe, and already I see the dawn of liberty in Switzerland. Spirit of my revered ancestor, of that WILLIAM TELL whose vigour first daunted the brow of tyrants, mayest thou be permitted to smile upon thy offspring, and to stimulate him to tread in thy steps. Gallant comrades, you who have marched over such vast tracts of land since you tasted repose; who have braved the toils of a wearisome journey to reap with us the reward of independent valour, you are welcome to our hearts and our arms. We are united in the bands of love, for we are all Switzers, the descendants of the brave Helvetii, who amidst their

native mountains fortified themselves, until compelled by the irresistible will of fate, they found a conqueror in Cæsar. Let us now once more unite in our native mountains, and we shall soon break the spell, which has so long bound us to an ignominious yoke; Zurich must fall; and to morrow night, if you have tasted sufficient repose, many of our arrows shall have taught the Austrian garrison not to pride themselves too much upon their boasted security."

Ulric's speech was received with loud plaudits, and Larlach the Bernese, entering, at this moment, received with transports, the news of this accession of force. "Now," said he, "we may give way to hope, with some reason, for if we are not strong enough to deliver Zurich, we never could deliver it; and, this once done, if the other cantons are not bold

enough to rise in their own defence, they do not deserve to be free. We shall have done our part."

"One duty only remains to be performed to night," cried Ap Gryff, "and that is to waft our evening hymn to the virgin. I promised to pay this tribute, when we lay at the mouth of the subterraneous passage; and we have still more cause to swell our gratitude now. Besides our new companions have never witnessed the powers of my harp, and it is but right that they should have a little harmony, after the fatigues they have undergone. All was hushed and the bard played and sung the following

HYMN TO THE VIRGIN:

"O'ER the mountain's dizzy height
Darkness rolls the car of night,

Alpine ridges hide their snows,
And drooping nature seeks repose.
Now when stillness holds her reign,
From the mountain to the main,
Holy mother of the sky
Hear thy suppliants, grateful, cry
"Ave Maria."

"Tribes, whose wither'd aspects own
The fury of the torrid azone;
Or those, in Scandinavia wild,
Where sun nor summer never smil'd;
Now when stillness holds her reign,
From the mountain to the main,
Holy mother of the sky,
Humble suppliants, grateful, cry
"Ave Maria."

"Hear us bless thee, for the past,
Hear us pray, thy smile may last;
Bless our cause, till conflicts cease,
And triumphs lead the way to peace.

Now, when stillness holds her reign
From the mountain to the main,
Holy mother of the sky,
Hear thy suppliants, grateful, cry
"AVE MARIA."

The band who had just arrived joined with enthusiasm in the praises of the bard, who seemed to receive as his due the tributes which were offered to him. It was more than two hours past the midnight when the musician laid down his harp, and the band were just on the point of seeking for repose, when the voice of the centinel at the entrance once again checked them, Ulric drew his sword, and advanced to the mouth of the cave; but before he reached the centinel, a well-known voice burst upon his ear, two figures rushed into the cave, and Ulric found himself in the arms of Riesbach, who embraced his chieftain with an ardour of transport.

Amazed at the sudden re-appearance of his friend Ulric questioned him on the method of his escape, when Riesbach pointed to his companion, who, throwing off the cloak which enveloped her, discovered herself to be Lucette.

"Heaven has surely destined, thee, amiable creature, to render us continual benefits," said Ulric, advancing towards her, and pressing her hand to his lips. "I am at a loss how to speak my thanks for this new favour, but let us hear by what miracle thou hast set our friend at liberty, that we may be the better enabled to recompence thee as we ought."

The arrival of Riesbach had completely banished all disposition for repose, and the whole band, anxious to hear the recital of the means by which the gallant youth had escaped,

resumed their seats, and listened with the utmost attention, while Riesbach commenced—He first gave an account of his seizure and examination before the Governor, of the agony and fury of the Austrian on finding who had escaped him, of his subsequent passion against his daughter, and the circumstances connected therewith, with which we are already acquainted. When he had reached thus far in his narrative, he continued as follows—

"I was conducted to a prison which, although it admitted the light of day, was sufficiently gloomy, and here I was left to meditate upon my hard fate. My situation however was rendered more pleasant, when I called to mind the certainty of your escape, my gallant comrades, since I was well convinced that you would lose no time in rescuing or revenging me. I felt a con-

viction that two nights would not pass away in this confinement without my hearing of an assault upon the town, and I had no doubt of the result; so that I began to anticipate a speedy release with increased confidence whenever I began to consider the subject. The friendly squeeze and look of my angelic preserver, also, tended not a little to cheer my spirits; "those beautiful eyes," said I to myself, "would not torture me with vain hopes, and surely she intends to render me service, and to give me liberty." Yet although these considerations enlivened me very considerably, I was a little damped sometimes, when I thought that the Governor's furious fit might possibly return; and, if so, there would be a sudden end of all my hopes and anticipations, for he would probably not go to rest, un-

til he had sent me into such a long sleep, as to put it out of my power to cause him any further uneasiness. While I was cogitating upon all these things, the door of my prison again opened, and I was brought forth, and conducted into a large hall, where sat the governor and all his officers ready to try and pass sentence upon me. I thought it very possible that they might also entertain a wish to see me die, and this idea certainly made me feel a little comical; and surely, my gallant friends, you will not feel surprized that a youth of my age should feel a very strong objection to perish in such an ignoble manner, in the midst of his enemies. I certainly felt very sore at the thought, but I did not shew any trace of it in my countenance: on the contrary, I looked as sternly as any man could

look, and when they menaced me, I certainly contrived to call a smile into my countenance. However, they tried me for a traitor, with a great deal of mock ceremonies and the form took up the greater part of the day; but at length they pronounced me deserving of death, and the Governor condemned me to die, by the most cruel tortures that could be devised, in order that I might be made a terror and example to every other traitor. As to the particular manner of my death: they did not condescend to inform me, but began to taunt me in the most biting manner of which they were capable. These methods of increasing anguish, however, failed altogether to produce the desired effect; I heard all unmoved, or returned to their deridings a smile of contemptuous indifference; when finding they could make

no impression upon me, my judges ordered me to be carried back to my prison, having previously given orders, in my hearing, that preparations for the execution of my sentence should be made by the next morning. "Now, rebellious Swiss," said the Governor, as I was leaving his presence, "thou shalt find that I have power to subdue thy proud spirit, and to make thee tremble. A protracted life of the most unexampled sufferings shall teach thee that submission, which thou hast hitherto refused to yield." "You may boast, Governor," I replied, "you may vaunt of your power over me, but it yet remains to be proved whether you can carry your menaces into execution. You may still find that it is no easy task to make a Switzer tremble." I was immediately re-conducted to my

prison; and left there to reason myself into resignation to a fate which now appeared inevitable. I had imagined that my execution would, at least, have been deferred for two days, in which case I might have rationally expected that a rescue would have been attempted by my gallant comrades; but that hope was now destroyed, since the shortness of the interval was such as effectually to cut it off. I therefore made up my mind to meet my fate which I now considered as irremediable, and banished from my bosom all those pleasing anticipations which had previously occupied it. I no longer beheld in myself a chief who was destined to participate in the glory of delivering my country, but as an unfortunate victim, whose prospects were to be blighted in their very bud, and who was no longer to taste of

the felicities of being. I found it no very easy matter to reconcile myself to a fate which I could not avoid considering as inglorious. Had I fallen in the field of battle, surrounded by foes which I had destroyed; had I been snatched away in open and honorable contention, my death had been glorious, and my bed watered by the tears of my gallant companions in arms. But to die in chains, to be brought before my enemies, and made a spectacle and an object of merriment and triumph in my dying moments; this idea was terrible in the extreme, and I would have blessed the friendly hand which would have shortened my miseries at once, by destroying me in my dungeon, that I might die unnoticed, and unexposed to public scorn. While I was giving way to those gloomy reflections, however, an angel watched over

my safety, although unseen, and formed a scheme for my rescue.

"The midnight hour was passed, and I was counting the hours which would intervene until that of my fate, when footsteps approached my prison door. "It is my guard," said I to myself, averting my face, in order that the intruder might not perceive any traces of emotion therein. The door opened gradually and softly. "My attendant, (thought I) has not been usually so cautious not to disturb me." I turned my face round, and beheld a person looking upon me, muffled up in a long cloak. On throwing it back I perceived the countenance of Lucette. Joy banished every other sensation from my breast for the moment. I spoke not, but looked upon her inquisitively: she produced a second cloak, and asked me if I wished to escape, and

would make her my companion to the cave of the mountain? I eagerly accepted the condition; my chains had been taken off that I might find repose, and I rose from the floor where I had been sitting, and throwing the cloak over me, prepared to follow my amiable guide. "Here," said she, producing a sword from under her cloak, "take this, in case you should want it." I eagerly seized the weapon, and found it useful: as we quitted the prison, and proceeded along a passage, a centinel advanced, and demanded who we were. Lucette threw aside her cloak, and exclaimed—"The daughter of the Governor and her attendant." The soldier was still inquisitive to see my face, and refused to let me pass until I had satisfied him. There was no alternative: I drew my sword and struck him to the earth, then, seiz-

ing his lance, I followed Lucette; but, at the moment that we reached the secret door, through which you escaped, the wounded soldier had so far recovered himself as to give a loud shout, and we saw several centinels hastening to the spot, and heard the alarm spreading rapidly through the castle. We closed the door hastily, but securely, after us, and pushed forward, aided by a torch which we had brought from the prison; and, after a long march, we reached the extremity of the passage, just as the moon had ascended the middle path of the Heaven, and threw a pensive light around us. "Here is no time to lose," said my guide, "we shall be pursued, and, unless we are speedy, shall not reach the cavern." "Fear not, amiable creature," I replied, "the intricacies of the mountains are so well known

to me, that when we have once cleared these glaciers, I will bid defiance to pursuit." It was not without some difficulty, however, that we accomplished the task; but we made rapid progress afterwards, and were not interrupted in our progress by any enemies. Once, indeed, we heard the blast of a distant horn behind us, and from an eminence, could clearly distinguish lights about the entrance into the secret passage; but every step carried us farther from danger, and we are here safely arrived. I must leave it to my amiable deliverer to state what were her motives for saving me; and flying with me from Zurich."

"A few words will explain that mystery," exclaimed Lucette, "my father's suspicions of my affection for your cause were confirmed by the part which I had been proved to take

in the deliverance of the Count Zur and his daughter, as well as in the escape of the two companions of the gallant Riesbach. Storming with rage, he manaced me with the most unheard-of punishments, deprived me of my faithful attendant, whom he suspected of assisting in my schemes, and shewed a disposition to render my life miserable. Just after sentence had been passed upon the youth, last night, I was summoned into the presence of the same tribunal, to whom my father had communicated all his doubts concerning me; and with whom he had been consulting as to the best methods of disposing of me for the future. "Lucette," said he, in a stern voice, as I approached him, "for daughter of mine, I no longer shall call you, you have been a traitor to your country, and have served her ene-

mies, a crime which would have been justly punished with instant death in any other person. But I am willing to moderate your punishment, and only to take from you the power of doing my interests any further injury: From this moment you must consider yourself dead to the world; to-morrow I shall have you conveyed to a distant nunnery, where you shall take the veil, and remain secluded for the rest of your existence. It will be vain for you to endeavour to seek an amelioration of your fate. This august assembly concurs in my decision, and your doom is irrecoverably fixed." Indignation sealed my lips. I had thought to have reproached my father with his inhumanity, in the first paroxysm of my fury; but on consideration, I suppressed my emotion; and said nothing, until the

moment when I was ordered to withdraw. I then bowed my head, with affected calmness, and replied—"To the upright decision of this august assembly, I bow with respectful submission." My father looked on me with a curious gaze, as if to perceive whether I was really affected, or only spoke with a pretended respect: but I turned my face away, and quitted the hall. My resolution was quickly taken. I determined to anticipate my father's intention, by withdrawing from Zurich, and seeking shelter amongst his enemies. I accordingly, procured two cloaks from a person who was devoted to my interests; and the soldier on guard being also friendly to me, I easily prevailed upon him to entrust me with the keys of the prison, under pretence of seeking a private conference with the prisoner, who was

committed to him. The rest you know; and I flatter myself you will not censure a conduct on my part which was the result of necessity."

Ulric and his friends were loud in their gratitude to Lucette, and, before they retired to repose, a part of the cavern was detached from the main apartment, in order to afford her a residence, not inconsistent with delicacy. When this was completed the whole of the band retired to repose, after Riesbach had been made acquainted with the cause of its late increase.

*END OF VOL. III.*

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